

## Sayegh quitting Arafat economic council

PARIS (R) — A Palestinian businessman said Friday he would resign from an economic council for development and construction established by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat because it was politically dominated. Yusef Sayegh said Mr. Arafat had put political heavyweights from the PLO's Tunis headquarters in charge instead of giving professional economists real authority in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. "I was named as a member of the board of governors. I do not want to serve in that function. As soon as I get back to Tunis I will write to Chairman Arafat to say so," he told Radio France International. Mr. Sayegh, who leads the PLO team to multilateral Middle East economic talks, was speaking after talks with donor countries at the World Bank office in Paris (see page 10). Dr. Sayegh said two other members of the 14-man board of governors shared his view. He did not name them. "The work will not be efficient with this composition of the council of governors because the president and the two vice-presidents are not professionals and there will be political considerations in the decisions instead of economic and technical ones," he said.

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## 2 Israeli soldiers wounded in Lebanon

MARJAYOUN (R) — Two Israeli soldiers were wounded in South Lebanon on Friday when guerrillas blasted their post with mortar bombs, security sources said. The soldiers were wounded — one moderately and one lightly — when guerrilla mortar fire hit their position at Sojoud hill on the edge of the "security zone" Israel occupies in South Lebanon, the sources added. Hizbollah (Party of God) claimed responsibility for the attack. The sources said guerrillas also fired mortars and anti-tank rockets at another hilltop Israeli post at Armon, 12 kilometres to the south, but there were no casualties. Israeli and allied South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia gunners fired about 30 tank and heavy artillery shells into Iqlim Al Toufan mountain ridge, a bastion of Hizbollah guerrillas just north of the zone. No one was hurt. Later a roadside bomb exploded near a civilian car passing between Basi and Anan villages, in an area north of the zone but under Israeli control, the sources said. None of the passengers was hurt but the car suffered some damage.

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## Fate of mostly 'Palestinian' First and Second districts will be sealed by PLO-Islamist clash

Less privileged concerned about hardship, but not to extent of evicting incumbents

By Lamis K. Andoni  
in Hashemi Shamali

ONCE THE barometer for popular sentiments in the country, northeast and south of Amman, home to the less privileged and many Palestinian refugees, are now largely indifferent to the elections campaign — an alarming sign of diminishing expectations and estrangement of political parties from their assumed power base.

As candidates continue to clash over the Israeli-Palestinian accord, which is a major theme of the elections campaign in the First and Second districts that include two densely populated refugee camps, people see more concerned with daily hardships of life.

In these two districts, poor and working classes feel the pinch of living on the periphery of the more affluent Third District of the capital.

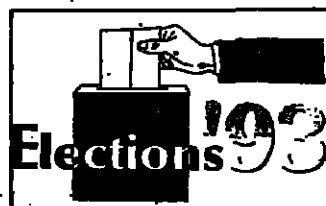
Unemployment and poor public services, including health and sanitary conditions in some of the more neglected areas, are the major complaints expressed by residents who feel that former deputies did not do much to improve the living conditions of these parts.

But such complaints will not fundamentally harm the chances of the districts' former deputies particularly those of the Islamic Action Front (IAF) which has been

most efficient and organised, as usual, in mobilising its supporters for this campaign. In refugee camps, in particular, residents are pressing candidates on demands for lifting government constraints on adding building structures to the houses that were originally constructed as tents and barracks in the fifties and early sixties.

However, the outcome of the elections could be an important indicator of public opinion over the peace process, as contenders focus on their support or opposition to the Oslo accords.

Historically considered a power base for the left, and pro-PLO groups, the 1989



elections were a surprise in that it was the Muslim Brotherhood and Islamists who had taken over in the First and Second districts. Early predictions suggest the Islamists will lose their monopoly over the six seats, divided equally between the two districts, but the three official candidates fielded by the strong IAF (the political party of the Muslim Brother-

hood) will win.

In the First District, IAF candidate Sheikh Abdul Aziz Jabr is expected to maintain his lead, while in the Second District outspoken and controversial Sheikh Abdul Munim Abu Zant and Mr. Hamzeh Mansour (both from the IAF) will comfortably secure First and Second place respectively.

The IAF has apparently made a pragmatic move by not nominating more than one candidate in the First District, where independent Islamist and former deputy Sheikh Ali Fakir enjoys support among traditional non-organised Muslims. Sheikh Fakir remains a

strong contender for the number two slot although other independent Islamists, like Dr. Ahmad Awaysheh, and leftist and pro-PLO candidates might prove to be serious rivals.

In 1989 the Brotherhood was able to weaken other rivals by supporting an alliance of members and independent Islamists in the two districts. The introduction of the one-person, one-vote system, however, spoiled IAF tactics to strike once again such successful alliances. But the electoral change, which was introduced in August, has deeply fragmented the two areas into neighbourhoods, clans, families, and among refugees; it has even created alliances based on source of origin in Palestine, giving way to the rise of candidates who represent only very narrow interest groups.

The fragmentation of the First and Second districts will hurt both IAF and the leftists, who came first and second respectively in the 1989 elections. The IAF's opposition to the Oslo accords, which pits it against the PLO, might backfire this time despite the decline of the organisation's popularity in the camps and other predominantly Palestinian areas.

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(Continued on page 4)

## Jordanian officials rule out treaty with Israel unless same is done with Syria, Lebanon

Combined agency dispatches

AMMAN — Jordanian officials warned Friday that no major move in the Middle East peace process could be announced before Monday's elections, amid reports of a breakthrough towards a treaty with Israel.

The officials, declining to be named, told the AFP the Kingdom was "ready to make progress" with Israel but they ruled out a peace treaty unless the Jewish state also made progress in negotiations with Syria and Lebanon.

The United States has been pressing Jordan to reach peace with Israel and offered to help pay off its \$6 billion foreign debt in return, they said.

The officials said U.S. Middle East envoy Dennis Ross made the offer during a tour of the region last month.

In Paris, a senior Israeli official said Friday he met a Jordanian minister for the first U.S.-brokered economic talks between the two sides.

Foreign Ministry Director-General Uri Savir met Minister of State in Prime Ministry Affairs Jawad Al Anani at the

U.S. embassy for talks chaired by Mr. Ross, diplomats said.

Mr. Savir told Reuters it was an informal meeting to set an agenda for detailed economic discussions among experts to begin in the near future.

He declined to discuss the agenda but called the meeting encouraging for the entire Middle East.

Mr. Savir held separate talks with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials to discuss channelling immediate aid to launch Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho from December.

"It is encouraging that we see here in Paris, where we are meeting simultaneously with the PLO and with the Jordanians, and with major actors in the international community, a growing effort to couple a political solution with the economic development of our region," Mr. Savir said.

"Our hope is ultimately to work towards a triangle of economic development, to foster and strengthen a political solution with economic underpinnings," he said.

The talks with Jordan were agreed at a meeting between

Israel Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan at the White House in September.

Mr. Peres said Thursday Israel did not want to exclude any Arabs from the circle of peace and dropped hints about a new breakthrough amid indications stalled Israel-PLO talks would resume.

Israeli media suggested that the breakthrough was with Jordan.

Visiting Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa was optimistic about getting talks with both Syria and the PLO back on track.

"We have to move quickly on both tracks and to achieve progress as much as we can," Mr. Musa said after meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Israeli generals at the defence ministry in Tel Aviv.

Asked whether the Israel-PLO talks would resume next week, Mr. Musa said: "I believe so. There is nothing against that." He added there were also "definite hopes on the other tracks," but declined

(Continued on page 5)

## PLO puts off decision on renewing Taba talks

Combined agency dispatches

CAIRO — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) put off a decision on peace talks with Israel until early next week, after PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat meets Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Chief PLO negotiator Nabil Shaath announced the delay after Mr. Arafat paid a surprise visit to Cairo and met with Mr. Mubarak's top political adviser, Osama Al Baz.

Mr. Arafat left for Yemen after the Baz meeting but was to return in two days.

Egypt has made intense efforts to renew the Israeli-PLO talks since Dr. Shaath walked out of a session last Tuesday on grounds Israel reneged on a promise to withdraw its troops from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

Egypt's foreign minister, Amr Musa, met twice with Dr. Shaath during the week. Mr. Musa went Thursday to Israel for discussions with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

When asked if Mr. Musa obtained Israeli assurances to bring the Palestinians back to the talks, Dr. Shaath said: "We will not announce anything until after the Arafat-Mubarak meeting."

Dr. Shaath said the two were scheduled to meet on Mr. Arafat's return from Yemen.

Before arriving in Cairo, Mr. Arafat said he might meet Mr. Rabin soon to give a push to the peace process. Wafa, the PLO news agency, said he made his comments in Dakar, Senegal, and gave no further details.

In Dakar, Mr. Arafat urged African nations on Thursday to postpone recognising Israel until the creation of a Palestinian state.

Mr. Arafat, who visited the former French colony to meet with President Abdou Diouf, also said an agreement must be reached on Jerusalem.

Several African nations that had supported the PLO's cause already have made provisional moves towards extending diplomatic recognition to Israel.

Most recently, Ghana's parliament last week told the government to begin taking steps towards recognition.

"We wish that African coun-

tries, before establishing relations with Israel, wait for the creation of a Palestinian state and a solution for Jerusalem," Mr. Arafat told a news conference.

Official sources said Dr. Baz briefing Mr. Arafat on the outcome of Egypt's talks with Israel on relaunching the negotiations.

Mr. Musa said prospects for the resumption of the talks were bright. He said his talks in Israel were very successful and that the negotiations would resume in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Taba next week.

The Taba talks are meant to negotiate details of an Israeli pullout from Gaza and Jericho under Israel's accord with the PLO signed Sept. 13 in Washington.

The accord calls for the Israelis to start withdrawing Dec. 13, to be replaced by Palestinian security forces, but leaves Israel responsibility for the Jewish settlers remaining behind.

In suspending the talks, Dr. Shaath said that a withdrawal plan presented by Israel

(Continued on page 4)

## Bedouins in north, centre and south will fill their six seats with minimum political noise

Tribal strengths, alliances, and services to underdeveloped sector figure high

By Ayman Al Safadi  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Though separated by vast deserts and many towns and cities across the country, the three electoral bedouin districts are joined together by common concerns and tribal values.

In these underdeveloped areas of the Kingdom, the harshness of life in the desert forces its own issues on the electoral race for the two parliamentary seats allocated for each of the three bedouin concentrations in the north, the centre and the south.

There is little talk of national politics there. The focus is on the need for building roads, schools and hospitals, finding

jobs and securing university education for the young.

"We have our own problems here. Many of the people are jobless because they did not have enough education," said Suleiman Hajaya, a tribal leader from the south.

The banners that boost the slogans of candidates in Amman and other urban centres of the country are scarce in the majority of these districts, completely absent in others.

"In Husseinieh (a small town in the southern bedouin district) there are no banners," said a resident of the town.

The 13 candidates contesting the district's two seats campaign through the old traditions of the tribes: visiting the madhafats (guest houses) and

communicating on personal levels with their constituencies.

The 13 candidates come from the three major tribes for which the election law basically reserved the two seats, with each tribe and even clan failing to unanimously support one candidate.

Ten candidates from the Hweitat tribe, including incumbents Sheikh Faisal Ben Jazi (who won 5,377 votes in 1989) and Nayef Abu Tayeh (who scored 4,303 votes) are running for election.

The Hajaya tribe is fielding two candidates and one aspirant from the Bani Atiyeh tribe is also vying for the support of the district's 34,217 registered voters.

Even though Sheikh Jazi is

challenged by one member of his clan, Kassab Al Jazi, the sheikh is expected to fare well in the race because he is the traditional head of the clan which is still committed to the tribal hierarchy. The sheikh is also expected to win votes from outside the clan.

"The young is trying to challenge the old, but tribal values are still strong and the majority will support their traditional leadership," said one source who asked not to be named.

The electoral race is more difficult for former Deputy Abu Tayeh whose performance at the 11th Parliament was at times controversial, because three members of his clan are also seeking election for this district, which extends

over parts of the governorates of Ma'an, Karak and Tafleeh.

By virtue of the personal relations that prevail in the district, all candidates are expected to win votes from outside their clans. That, said an observer, makes it difficult to expect the outcome of the race. The more likely candidates, however, are Sheikh Jazi, Dr. Abu Tayeh, Mohammad Oudeh Njadat (also a Hweitat), Ahmad Al Hajaya, Salem Al Zawaidh (Hweitat), and Bader Al Neimat (Hweitat).

Wasat district

Among the bedouins of Al

(Continued on page 3)

## Fourth District challenges conservative politics

By Mariam M. Shahin  
in Abu 'Alanda

THE ELECTORAL race in this industrial district of Amman (85,061 registered voters) is promising to be a lively campaign after the entry of what promises to be a third force to compete with the Islamic Action Front (IAF) and tribal representatives.

The Fourth District is a stronghold of conservative tribal clans, on the one hand, and the Muslim Brotherhood on the other. It includes industrial boroughs such as Qweismeh, Jweideh, Abu 'Alanda and Sahab. With 20 candidates vying for two Muslim seats, elections here will be a test for both the clans and IAF, especially after left-wing political parties and a maverick Jordanian politician have combined to back one of the candidates.

This candidate, Abdul Rahman Al Qataneh, is an independent whose political election programme came of

late to the attention of three left-wing parties, the Jordan People's Democratic Party, the Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity Party and the Jordanian Baath Arab Socialist Party. Subsequently Leith Shbeilat, the former Third District deputy who made headlines when he was accused and convicted of political subversion last year, also announced that he would back Mr. Qataneh.

The candidacy of Mr. Qataneh itself and the official backing being given to him by highly politicised groups and individuals have given the campaign here some colour and created a political dialogue in this part of Amman that would otherwise have been limited to local economic questions and IAF promises of a morally correct attitude on people's social agenda, national unity and Palestine.

Mr. Qataneh is concentrating on pan-Arab politics, calling for the lifting of economic boycott against Iraq.

Many of the industrial goods produced in this district's factories headed wholesale for Iraq before it invaded Kuwait in 1990.

Amman-based truck drivers, most of whom have made this district their home, are also interested in reopening the Jordanian-Iraqi trade route. Many lost their livelihood as a result of the U.N.-imposed embargo on Iraq. The transport sector generally has suffered tremendously as a result of the sanctions.

Thus, the political and economic interests of many in this district are distinct from, say, the political closeness to the Saudi royal family that many of the tribal leaders here have traditionally boasted about.

In fact after losing the by-election to Anwar Hadid in 1992, Minwer Abu Zaid — another candidate from Sahab complained to Saudi Arabia's King Fahd that there had been rigging of the vote count. Mr. Abu Zaid's move was not taken seriously

at the time, but the incident highlighted the tenuous nature of figures running and campaigns waged for elections in this district.

Up against such kind of tribalism which would favour some of the candidates over others, Mr. Qataneh is by no means a sure winner. But he is creating an unprecedented challenge to a community of businessmen, landowners and industrial workers who have been dependent on others for decades.

Banners promoting the almost exclusively tribal candidates here, as elsewhere in the Kingdom, are many; but most locals say there is no telling of what will happen on election day. The IAF has the most cohesive advertisement campaign and its banners are so eye-catching and strategically located that they cannot be missed by passers-by.

While incumbent Deputy Anwar Hadid is definitely a frontrunner with only one member of his prominent clan running against him,

most observers say that, with the one-person, one-vote formula in force, no seat is completely safe for any candidate.

Mr. Hadid beat fellow tribal candidate Abu Zaid and IAF candidate Hani Tahrawi in the by-election held here in August 1992. Mr. Hadid thus replaced his cousin, Nayef Al Hadid, who had passed away while a member of the Lower House.

The Hadid clan is prominent but its actual voting strength, say many people here, is often exaggerated. Nevertheless, Nayef Hadid was able to capture 6,458 votes out of the 19,000 votes cast in 1989. Four other members of his clan were running in that race. Most of the Hadid clan is expected to back Anwar Al Hadid. While younger candidate, Issa Hadid, is expected to make his entry into the political scene with few thinking that he has a chance of winning

(Continued on page 4)

## ALI HUSSEIN ABU RAGHEB

Third District



TOGETHER TOWARDS:

Democracy, productivity, freedom of speech, social justice and equal opportunity.

A Better Future For Our Children

هذه هي الحياة







## Bosnian girl undergoes pre-surgery eye tests

By Elia Nasrallah  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Janetta Kachmo, a 12-year-old Bosnian girl, will undergo various medical tests in preparation for her eye surgery scheduled for Monday, said Ghassan Jayousi, an eye specialist at Jordan University Hospital.

Janetta, who was admitted to hospital Thursday evening, is suffering from a bleeding in the left eye caused by a shrapnel injury she incurred in June during a battle in Bosnia. Dr. Jayousi told the Jordan Times Friday. He said he hoped that the tests will pinpoint the affected area so that the operation will be successful.

Janetta, who is accompanied here by her mother, has slight weakness from the injury, but the condition can be corrected

by removing the shrapnel, said Dr. Jayousi.

He said Janetta is the sixth Bosnian eye patient to be treated at Jordan University Hospital; the other five have been repatriated, he added.

Dr. Jayousi said a total of 20 Bosnians suffering various eye injuries were treated in Jordan so far.

Janetta and hundreds of other Bosnian nationalists now living in Jordan are being cared for under a programme by the Hashemite Charity Organisation (HCO) upon directives from His Majesty King Hussein.

According to Saleh Ulewah, head of the HCO health section, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) office in Amman arranged for Janetta to come to Jordan for the surgery.

## Germany to reschedule JD 41m of Jordan's debt

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Germany has taken a decision in principle to reschedule DM86 million (about JD41 million) of Jordan's debt and plans to formalise an agreement early next year, a senior German diplomat said Friday.

Matthias Myers, first secretary at the German embassy here, said the issue was discussed in general terms during Wednesday's visit to Jordan of German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel, in the context of the Kingdom's efforts to address its foreign debt, which currently stands at JD6.68 billion.

Jordan owes Germany a total of DM523 million

(JD234 million), Mr. Myers told the Jordan Times.

Elaborating on some of the comments made by Mr. Kinkel at a press conference he held after his talks here, Mr. Myers said a DM95 million figure the minister mentioned represented the DM86 million expected to be rescheduled and DM9.5 million (JD4 million) to be converted to grants.

The conversion agreement will include a stipulation that 50 per cent of the amount will be used in environmental protection projects in Jordan, he added.

Clarifying another comment made by the minister in response to a question on the Arab boycott of Israel, Mr. Myers said the issue was discussed with Jordanian officials, but not in a global context or as a German effort to lift the Arab embargo on trade with Israel or firms dealing with the Jewish state.

Under new regulations adopted by the government, German firms are banned from providing certificates of origin and ports of call of ships as demanded by the Arab countries in a bid to block the entry of Israeli products or goods with Israeli contents.

At the same time, the companies could provide certificates saying that the goods are of German origin or any other country as the case may be, and list the names of the ports that the ships carrying them make, Mr. Myers said.

"Instead of saying the goods are not of Israeli origin, the certificates could say they are of German origin if they are German products or stipulate the country's name if they are not of German origin," Mr. Myers noted.

Similarly, he said, instead of certifying that they did not call at an Israeli port, the ships could list the ports of call they make and still meet the requirement of the boycott of Israel provisions.

"It is a matter of turning a negative certificate into a positive certificate in a manner which satisfies all parties involved," he said.

Mr. Myers said the issue was raised during Mr. Kinkel's talks in Saudi Arabia as well as Jordan and both countries agreed on the new arrangement.

The German diplomat confirmed that Mr. Kinkel met with the Iraqi ambassador to Jordan, Noor Al Weiss, but said the talks had little to do with political relations between Germany and Iraq and focused on the possibilities of a release for a German national serving an eight-year sentence in an Iraqi jail.

"It was a humanitarian move adopted in line with the policy of the government of Germany of responding to appeals from the German people," Mr. Myers said.

He said that before Mr. Kinkel set out on his latest Middle East visit, the parents of Key Sonderman, a German student who was arrested in Iraqi territory early this year, and sentenced for

illegal entry, appealed to him to intervene with the Iraqi government.

"It was in response to this request that Mr. Kinkel met with the Iraqi ambassador," Mr. Myers said. He declined to reveal how Ambassador Weiss responded to the approach.

Other sources said the Iraqi envoy said the government of Saddam Hussein might be willing to respond positively to the call if a letter to this effect was sent by the German president.

"There are other European countries facing a similar situation, and I think there will be a coordinated European decision in this regard," said a well-placed European source.

AMMAN — Privatisation of state-owned utilities and industries has worked successfully in some third world countries which faced economic difficulties similar to those of Jordan, and given the expertise available locally, the experiment could prove highly fruitful in the Kingdom, says an American expert with more than 30 years of experience in dealing with state economies.

Edgar C. Harrell, who headed the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in Jordan from 1978-81, before assuming the job of special assistant to the AID administrator for commercialisation of technology, believes that privatisation, if applied in the proper form, could be part of an answer to Jordan's economic problems.

But, he admitted in an interview with the Jordan Times last week, the situation needs closer study before passing judgement.

Many Latin American countries have embraced privatisation of huge state-owned utilities incurring large losses, thus freeing themselves to deal with problems such as external debt, he said, citing Mexico and Peru as examples.

In many of the countries, he said, privatisation did not only mean freeing the state of the burden of perennial losses, but also solutions to foreign debt in the form of swapping outstanding loans against equity in privatised state-owned entities.

Furthermore, he said, such an approach also ensures raising the level of efficiency of the entity in a manner that would serve the overall economic interests of the country.

According to Dr. Harrell, who was here on a short visit last week, Jordan has many of the positive elements such as a relatively free market economy and infrastructure and, more importantly, human expertise, that were not available to some of those countries which have already turned to privatisation, and these elements could actually be an asset.

For instance, an efficient bureaucrat running a state-owned "commercial" entity should be able to do a much better job once he or she steps out of the constraints imposed by state control, said Dr. Harrell, who believes that many of the Jordanian officials in senior positions are of such calibre.

Freeing state capital from ventures which have established themselves as profit-

## Privatising state-owned utilities, industries could prove fruitful for Jordan — U.S. expert

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

able under government control by relinquishing ownership allows the government to use the funds elsewhere to create more job opportunities and initiate new programmes which also could eventually be handed over to the private sector, said Dr. Harrell, who heads a private international consultancy firm.

Hotels and public transport companies among others fall in this category, he said.

Dr. Harrell agrees that, as in the case of most countries which adopted privatisation, one of the main problems is labour unrest since layoffs inevitably follow the change of ownership from government hands to the private sector.

But, he suggests, a well-prepared strategy to deal with this problem must inevitably include alternate employment opportunities created by the funds freed through privatisation, preceded by thorough discussions and dialogue with all sectors concerned.

The most important element in any approach to privatisation is the political will at the highest level to adopt it as an effective long-term means for economic change, he emphasised.

He also stressed that the

government should not depend on commercial ventures as a source of revenues. Such activities should be strictly left to the private sector, which in turn could better serve the national economy through creating employment opportunities and paying taxes.

There are no general global parameters to guide privatisation procedures, he said. Each country has its own peculiarities and situations and the process could be adjusted to absorb and deal with possible nuances if thorough studies are made in advance.

"Regulatory" regimes will have to be created in vital sectors of the economy, but these should not mean protection leading to monopolies, he said. "What is the use of shifting a public sector monopoly to a private sector monopoly if the general idea is to create a free market economy?" he said.

In sectors, like telecommunications, freeing funds should not be the only consideration, he said. Allowing a "strategic partner" to come in with technology is very important to enable the country to keep itself abreast of the latest developments and techniques in the field, he pointed out.

AMMAN — The Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) has been granted a JD12.5 million loan from a consortium of local banks administered by the Arab Banking Corporation (ABC) for the expansion of the JPMC Shidiya plant, according to a contract signed in Amman Thursday.

The loan will be used to buy the necessary materials, machinery and equipment to help expand the Shidiya plant, said Jawad Haddad, the general manager of ABC, at a press conference held at Forte Grand Hotel.

Mr. Haddad said other Jordanian banks contributing to the loan, which is guaranteed by the government, include the Housing Bank, the Business Bank, the Jordan Investment and Finance Bank and the Social Security Corporation (SSC).

Sameh Madani, director general of JPMC, said the equipment to be purchased will help treat low grade materials in order to make the final product more marketable.

Mr. Madani added that the equipment will be used to convert raw material into a highly concentrated commercial product with the least industrial cost.

"It is a plan by local banks to

granting of JD 12.5 million loan to JPMC from consortium of local banks (Staff photo by Ayman Fayed)

Arab Banking Corporation General Manager Jawad Haddad (centre) and Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) Director General Sameh Madani (left) Thursday announced the expansion of the Shidiya plant.

Secure the Jordanian economy," Mr. Madani said.

"By developing the Shidiya plant which has good quality and a sufficient quantity of phosphate, we will be able to compete with international markets at a lower cost," he added.

Mr. Madani maintained that the plant will start producing in 1996 and is expected to earn

## Bank consortium grants JPMC JD 12.5m to expand Shidiya plant

By Rana Hussein  
Special to the Jordan Times

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## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of recent paintings by artist Ammar Khammash at Darat Al Funnun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Lweibdeh. Also showing, the permanent exhibition (Saturday-Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.)
- ★ Art exhibition by a group of artists at Orfali Art Gallery (telephone 643251/2).
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Mustafa Ali at Baladna Art Gallery.
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Sa'di Al Ka'bi at Alla Art Gallery

(9:30-13:30 and 1500-1800).

- ★ Art exhibition by artist Mohammad Al Jalous at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Mohammad Abu Zraq entitled "Views" at the Royal Cultural Centre.

### SEMINAR

- ★ Seminar entitled "Two Months After the Signing of the Agreement of Principles Between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation: The Size of Achievement and the Size of Damage" with the participation of Dr. Tayseer Aroui, Saji Salameh, Abdul Raheem Mallooh, and Nabil 'Amr at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation at 6:00 p.m.

## Bedouins keep politics at bay

(Continued from page 1)

Wasat (the centre) district, 14 candidates from the various clans of the Bani Sakher tribe are competing for their two parliamentary seats.

"The young is starting a revolution against the tribal leadership but are not succeeding because they are not channelling it right," said Saleh Kneian Al Fayed, a lawyer from the district, in reference to the large number of candidates contesting the elections.

With the split among the clans allowed to contest the two seats, only candidates who have the support of their clan and an appeal to other voters stand a real chance in the elections, said Mr. Al Fayed.

Former Deputy Jamal Al Khreisha, who won 3,582 votes in 1989, fits the description.

Mr. Khreisha, a former minister of state in the Taber Masri and Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker governments, is the only candidate of his clan in the Mugger area, about 30 kilometres southeast of Amman. Mr. Khreisha is expected to win the majority of the 3,588 registered voters of the Khreisha and Gdah clans and, as a former official who had provided services to many voters, he is likely to win votes from outside the clan.

The rest of the other clans are divided, with the Al Fayed fielding two candidates, the two Jbour candidates, the Al Amer-Ziben five, the Ka'abneh one, the Shure'a one, the Hgeish one, and the Khbeir

one.

With 4,695 registered voters, the Jbour clan could have assured a seat for one of its members had it put its support behind one candidate. The clan's votes, however, would be split between the two competing brothers, Barakat and Saud Al Zheir. Mr. Fayed said that would reduce the chances of both unless one withdraws or the clan decides to support one.

A former deputy and minister of health, Mohammad Adoub Al Ziben, who won 2,814 votes in 1989, could wrest votes from outside his clan but will have to share the 4,460 registered voters of the Al Amer-Ziben with four other candidates.

One of his main challengers is Daifallah Mansour Al Ziben, a former chief of military intelligence, who enjoys respect among people of his tribe, which inhabits an area that extends over parts of the governorate's of Amman, Irbid, Mafrag and Zarqa.

The 8,693 registered voters of the Ghebein clan (which includes Al Fayed, the Kasabneh, the Salayteb and the Khbeir) would also have to be shared by four contenders, thus reducing the chances of the clan to send one of its members to parliament.

**North bedouins**

A former deputy and a member of the Upper House of Parliament (the Senate) are among the 10 candidates for

the two seats of the north bedouin districts, and both have good chances of becoming the representatives of this area in the north-eastern desert.

Senator Nawaf Al Qadi, who lost his bid for election in 1989 due to splits within his tribe, has this time the unanimous support of the Bani Khaled tribe, which has 9,000 registered voters who mainly inhabit the town of Hoshbeh.

With the rest of the candidates competing for the remaining 24,146 registered voters, Sen. Qadi is very likely to quit the Senate and join the country's 12th Lower House of Parliament.

Former Deputy Sa'ad Hayel Srou, who won 3,569 votes in 1989, is challenged by a member of his Massaed clan of the Ahl Al Jebel (Mountain dwellers), tribes but still has an almost certain chance of winning his reelection due to the reservoir of support he has among other clans.

Mr. Srou, a former minister of public works, has extended help to people of his district and is likely to win the backing of members of other tribes.

Almost each of the main tribes in this district are fielding a candidate, a factor which, as is the case in the bedouin of the centre district and other

constituencies in the Kingdom, will work to the disadvantage of all.

The Al Sarhan tribe is fielding two candidates, Al Shor'afat one, Al Sardiyeh one, Al A'thamar one (former deputy Mohammad Al Muarir who secured 3,845 votes in 1989, and Al Tawafsheh one. Pares Al Madhi, a member of the Al Issa tribe, is running on the ticket of the Islamic Action Front (IAF).

Mr. Madhi, however, is not expected to be among the strong contenders because his tribe, the smallest among Ahl 'Al Jebel, said they would only support him if he ran as their candidate.

The sands of the Jordanian desert are not yet a fertile ground for political ideologies. The political platform of the IAF will thus be competing with traditions that for long governed life in the Jordanian desert. The Bedouins are not known to be strongly inclined towards mixing religion with politics.

Bedouin traditions are still too strong to defeat, said Mr. Al Fayed, who lost his bid for election as a political candidate for the bedouins of the centre district in 1989.

Al Ra'i correspondent in Mafrag, Ghazi Haddad, contributed to this article.



## Karameh dam to be built by Italian firm

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) has awarded a tender to Salini Italy, an Italian construction firm, to build the Karameh dam, and said that water to be stored in the reservoir was expected to irrigate 40,000 dunams in the Jordan Valley region.

JVA Secretary General

Abdul Aziz Wishah said that the idea of constructing the Karameh dam surfaced in the early 1980s, but it was only towards the end of 1992 that the final designs for the JD51 million dam were completed.

Speaking after the tender signing ceremony Thursday at the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, Dr. Wishah said

that the JVA carefully studied the effects of earthquakes on the dam, the quality of water that would be stored and the strength of the foundation.

The 40-metre high dam will be built in 42 months starting next month in Wadi Mulla, on a tributary of the Jordan River, said Dr. Wishah.

Designed as the second

largest dam in Jordan after the King Talal Dam, the Karameh dam will have an overall capacity of 55 million cubic metres of water, added Dr. Wishah.

It is one in a series of dams to be constructed by the Ministry of Water and Irrigation in order to double Jordan's present rain water storage capacity, according to Dr. Wishah.

## Government endorses National Strategy on Women

AMMAN (Petra) — The government has endorsed the National Strategy on Women which was ratified following a series of seminars and conferences held in various governorates.

The strategy, which is based on the general framework of the Islamic Sharia, the Constitution and the National Charter, takes into account the

required measures for the implementation of the strategy which was ratified following a series of seminars and conferences held in various governorates.

The strategy, which is based on the general framework of the Islamic Sharia, the Constitution and the National Charter, takes into account the

Arab society's values and traditions and seeks to strengthen the unity and cohesion of members of society and preserve family integration.

It aims at handling women's issues, and calls for giving the women of Jordan an effective role in socio-economic development, especially as the Constitution guarantees equal

rights and opportunities for women.

The strategy provides for legislation on women's participation in politics, economy, social services and health affairs, and gives special attention to women responsible for raising families or caring for orphans, as well as illiterate women.

## International culture festival awards director for contributions to Arab theatre

By Rana Hussein  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A Jordanian participant in the 1993 Carthage International Cultural Festival (CICF) in Tunisia recently was awarded a gold medal and a meritorious certificate for his work in the Arab and Jordanian theatre movement.

Hatem Sayed, a director who started his theatre career in Jordan in 1972, is the first Jordanian to be honoured with this award.

Mr. Sayed said he was delighted to receive the medal, awarded once every two years to five participants who contribute a distinguished work.

"I can't really describe the way I feel, since I am the first Jordanian to win this award," said Mr. Sayed who is also the Art Department manager at the Ministry of Culture.

"I am very happy to learn that somebody appreciates and takes my work into consideration, especially that it (the recognition) is coming from an Arab country like Tunisia."

This, he said, indicates that such countries are knowledgeable about contemporary Arab plays.

The 46-year-old Sayed said this award is presented to individuals who devote their time to art and the theatre movement and those who are still contributing to theatre and the arts and leave a mark on peoples lives.

The first festival by the CICF was held in 1983.

Mr. Sayed said that Jordan participated in every festival since the start. He added that Jordan tries to participate in all Arab and international arts festivals.

This year the CICF, which ran from Oct. 14 to Oct. 24, hosted 34 Arab and foreign countries, and Jordan participated with a play entitled "Yoya Ser Al Maward (Yoya, Secret of Rose Water)".

According to Mr. Sayed, who led the Jordanian delegation to the festival, the play reflects the human concerns in the world. "The medal I received was not a reward for this play, it was just an appreciation for my previous art work," Mr. Sayed explained.

Mr. Sayed graduated from Art Academy in Cairo in 1971 and received his Bachelors degree in art theatre and started



working for the Ministry of Culture in 1972 as a director. He served as the ministry's art director from 1977 to 1988 and directed more than 16 plays during his 21-year career.

He considers a 1978 play he directed entitled Rasoul Min Karieh Imerieh Lilistifham An Masalet Al Harb Wal Salam (A Messenger from Tamrieh Village Finds Out About War and Peace Issues) one of his better works.

Mr. Sayed said he depends on the literature of other countries he has visited for ideas for the plays. He said such books often express his own personal

opinions.

Mr. Sayed's recently directed Al Zabel (The Garbage Man), a play which was nominated for four awards at the Jordanian Theatre Festival in 1993. The play discusses the problems of a suburb through its garbage — the garbage man reveals the people's secrets from their garbage.

Mr. Sayed said that the 16 plays he directed are only the first steps towards directing more plays. "I don't consider myself as having done anything yet, this is only the beginning of more plays in the near future."

Handwritten text in Arabic script: "هذا هو السيد هاتم" (This is Mr. Hatem)



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## Leaning to wrong side

IN THEORY, the defeat of the former mayor of Jerusalem, Teddy Kollek, at the hand of former Minister of Health in the government of Yitzhak Shamir, Ehud Olmert, can be a setback to the peace process and to the peaceful coexistence between Jews and Arabs in the Holy City. Although the subject of Jerusalem has been deferred for negotiation at a future date, the election of a hardline Likudnik will certainly make such talks very difficult. The new mayor has already declared that Jews can settle anywhere in Jerusalem including the Arab quarters of the city's east. This is a clear signal to the Palestinians and Arabs that the fate of Jerusalem would not very easily be determined under the accord reached between the PLO and Israel.

Emotions in East Jerusalem are bound to escalate as a result of this development. Relations between the two peoples inhabiting the city are destined to become much more exacerbated. Palestinians now have cause to suspect that the promises to negotiate the future of East Jerusalem on the basis of U.N. Security Council resolution 242 have been effectively eliminated.

And this is not all. The fallout from the triumph of the Likud bloc over the Labour Party not only in Jerusalem but also in some other Israeli cities is bound to have negative impact on the peace process especially in the context of the bilateral Palestinian-Israeli talks in Taba and Cairo. These talks are already stalemated and the new tide in favour of the Likud Party could harden the position of the Israelis. If the Likud could project the results of these elections as some kind of referendum on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's peace plan, then the thrust of the Israeli peace drive could be weakened.

Perhaps it is still premature to make iron clad judgements on the implications of the mayoral elections. Lack of significant advances on the peace fronts, coupled with an increase in violence in the occupied territories, must have swayed the opinion of Israeli voters in Jerusalem.

Whether the decision of Jerusalemites to boycott the elections was right or wrong is not easy to judge. Politically speaking the decision to boycott is a sound one. The Palestinian leadership could not have urged its constituency to vote in the election altogether lest this be construed as admission of Israel annexation of the city. Yet the local leadership in Jerusalem itself could have taken a different approach. Certainly a Likud mayor and council will exert great effort on consolidating Jewish control over the city. That will only make the negotiations over the final status of Jerusalem all the more difficult.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily commented on the success of a member of the extremist Likud Party as mayor of Jerusalem saying that such a development is not expected to draw any manifestation or dismay from the Western nations which support Israel. Of course, Washington and its allies would not say that the success of the Likud would be a threat to peace, knowing that the Likud Party is strongly opposed to any peace deal with the Arabs and the abandoning of occupied Arab land, said the paper. The double standard policy followed by the Western nations does not allow any Western capital to criticise the Zionist and racist entity now ruling the occupied Arab lands or express fear and concern over the prospects of peace as a result of the Likud policies which advocate the construction of Jewish settlements on Arab territory, added the paper. The victory of a Likud member in the Jerusalem municipal elections is a clear message to the outside world that Israel and the Israeli people are not oriented towards peace, continued the daily. It said that the Arabs have to examine the results of the Israeli municipal elections very carefully and the victory of the Likud in Jerusalem. The Arabs, said the paper, should realise that they are not facing a single party called Likud which is resolved to maintain occupation of Arab land, but rather a hostile nation full of hatred towards the Arabs and Muslims and that continues to draw up plots against them.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour daily described the Israeli settlers' attacks on the Arab civilians of the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip as barbaric actions. Despite its declared policy of working for peace, the Israeli government shows no tendency at all to bridle such atrocities perpetrated against the innocent civilians and their personal property, said Saleh Al Qallab. The atrocities against the Arabs are being executed with full knowledge and backing from the Israeli government and armed forces which stand by doing nothing to protect the Arab population, continued the writer. In light of the present events, the Palestinian leaders ought to take note that the Rabin government is conducting an underhand dealing and not honouring the deal signed with the PLO last September in Washington, said the writer. He said that it should be clear to the PLO leadership that its negotiations with Israel would present more difficulties than the armed struggle and the state of war. Therefore, he said, the PLO should take an appropriate, firm stand in the face of such atrocities and insist that the Israeli government take full responsibility for ending the attacks on the Palestinians if a peace formula is to be worked out and if the PLO-Israeli deal is to be implemented.

## Jordanian Perspectives

# Casting the ballots — a sign of political maturity

Three days to go before Jordan's first multiparty elections since 1956, the campaign scene is predictably very hot, officials are busy ensuring that the infrastructure for the balloting and counting process is in place and most voters, presumably, have made up their minds one way or another.

It would be a risky venture to assess the possible outcome of the polls since all given in Jordan's past elections have been scrambled by the introduction three months ago of the one-person, one-vote formula into the election law.

But no matter who emerges the winner in Monday's race, it could be safely said that the entire process would definitely reflect the political maturing of the Jordanians as is evident in the facts and figures of the electorate.

The Ministry of Interior puts the total number of registered voters at 1.514 million — an increase of more than 50 per cent from the electorate of 1989.

It is relevant to compare the figures related to the 1993 elections to those of 1989.

The given figures for the November 1989 elections were:

Population: Three million.

Jordanians above the voting age: 1.4 million.

Actual eligible electorate: 1.2 million (taking into account the exclusion of security personnel from the process).

Number of candidates: 800

Number of acknowledged political parties: Zero (except the Muslim Brotherhood, which operated as a political group in the guise of a charity organisation since 1957 when a ban was imposed on all political parties).

Number of registered voters: Around 900,000.

Number of voters who collected their voting cards: less than 700,000.

A closer dissection of the figures indicates that:

— While the total number of Jordanians of voting age today is around two million, the exclusion of members of the security forces, including the military and police, as well as the general intelligence and civil defence departments, brings down the electorate to 1.8 million.

— The 1.8 million figure compares to the 1.2 million of 1989.

The increase is attributed to the number of Jordanians who turned 19 since the last elections, held in November 1989, (this could be estimated at around 500,000 based on the annual four per cent growth in the Kingdom's population) and the number of voters among the 320,000 plus Jordanians who returned home in the wake of the Gulf crisis of 1990-91 (officials and analysts say the number of the so-called "returnee" voters is around 160,000, but only around 100,000 of them have actually registered in the roster).

Expectations that around 1.2 million of the registered voters are expected to collect their voting cards and anywhere between 70 and 75 per cent of them would actually cast their votes on Monday are the best indications of the political maturity that characterises the Jordanian scene today.

In 1989, when Jordan held its first general elections in 22 years, it was clear that many voters did not actually think that the process was indeed part of a dramatic change in the Kingdom's political scene. Many thought it would be a repetition of the traditional process of tribalism and financial clout overriding all other considerations to produce a docile parliament along the predictable lines past legislative authorities have followed, by and large, in the Kingdom.

That accounted for the less than 700,000 of the nearly one million registered voters actually collecting their cards and less than 550,000 of them actually exercising their right to vote on polling day.

But things have changed a lot since then. Despite the lacklustre performance of Jordan's 11th Parliament in addressing many of the bread and butter issues of Jordan's proletariat, Jordanians have taken note of the fact that the 1989 elections did indeed herald an irreversible process of democratisation and liberalisation in the country. And, as such, they have also realised, for the first time, that their destiny lies in their hands alone.

Another relevant figure is that around 20,000 people, representing 0.5 per cent of the total population and one per cent of Jordanians of voting age and 0.75 per cent of the eligible electorate, are registered members of the 20 and plus

political parties which emerged after the enactment of the new law on political parties in September last year.

This figure has to be seen against comparable figures from the Third World as well as some of the advanced countries which boast of their democratic process. In some of the countries of Europe, where democracy became a part of life several decades ago, the average active participation in political parties is around four per cent of the population. Given the fact that the Jordanians were given the choice of enrolling in political parties only one year ago, the collective figure from the membership rosters of the political groups of the Kingdom today is very compatible with the average elsewhere.

By and large, the figures of the Jordanian election scene have also to be seen against the introduction of the one-person, one-vote system in August. Given the loud cries of many politicians and groups against the move, on whatever grounds, one would have expected apathy to grow among the voters along the lines that prevailed in 1989: that the election process was not going to be any different from the polls of the 1950s and 60s.

Contrary to all indications and predictions, the one-person, one-vote formula has contributed significantly to raising the political awareness of Jordanians regardless of the shortcomings in the overall application of the formula, given the fact that voting districts and constituencies remain unchanged.

But, as the figures now indicate, there is little doubt that Jordanian voters, regardless of their political persuasions and perceptions, have politically matured enough to realise that the Kingdom is actually deep into the democratisation process launched in 1989, and they would be the losers if they stayed out since it is their fate and future at stake in the hands of the Parliament expected to be elected in three days from now. This sentiment should be seen against the previous convictions of many that nothing was going to change regardless whether there was a parliament in the country or not.

The result of that comparison today to me represents political maturity.

## Fate of First and Second districts

(Continued from page 1)

which has taken a very personal form of attack against PLO leader Yasser Arafat, has alienated many residents of the Second District even among those who oppose the peace accord.

Analysts believe that the door is more open for pro-PLO supporters, leftist and tribal candidates to do better in contesting the seats in the two districts.

But candidates who traditionally support the PLO are now more deeply divided over the Palestinian autonomy talks between Israel and the organisation.

Huge banners supporting the PLO and others condemning the Oslo accord are indicative of the raging conflict over the historic agreement.

The outspoken support for PLO by some contenders is viewed as a sign of a hidden war between the supporters of the organisation, particularly of Fateh, and the Muslim Brotherhood.

Four years ago, Fateh, which maintains a sizeable presence in the refugee camps and eastern Amman, did not take clear sides in the election campaign, a move that eventually led to the triumph of the Islamists, according to activists in the area.

This time around Fateh supporters are said to be backing a number of candidates, but their votes will be split among several contenders who are in the frontline of defending the PLO in their platform and banners.

It remains to be seen if supporters of Palestinian groups, whether Fateh or the left, would be able to infiltrate what has become an Islamist stronghold after the 1989 elections.

In general, though most of the candidates in the two areas are of Palestinian origin. Some of them are running merely to make a political statement that the Israel-PLO accord should not affect their political rights in Jordan.

The leading leftist candidate in the First District is Mr. Azmi Al Khawaja, who is backed by the People's Democratic Party (PDP) (Hashd) and the People's Unity Party (PUP), or Wahda. He is a former Palestine National Council (PNC) member, who spent years in jail for his activism in the Jordanian arena.

Although Mr. Khawaja is a very strong contender, there are at least five other candidates competing for the third seat who could split the leftist-pro-PLO (groups) votes in the First District. These include Hamada Fara'neh, a columnist; Dr. Mohammad No'oman, who was expelled from Hashd for running against the party's candidate Kamal Nasser, president of Jordan's Bar Association; Theeb Abdullah, independent Islamist; Musa Kweider, a unionist and a member of the Progressive Socialist Party (Communist); and Fuad Dabbour, Baathist.

The two major leftist parties (Hashd and Al Wahda) were deeply disappointed when their agreement to launch a joint progressive

list, backing Mr. Khawaja, failed in bringing about a broader leftist-nationalist coalition.

Fateh supporters are said to be firmly behind Mr. Nasser who has flaunted a huge banner in the middle of Al Hussein refugee camp expressing support for the PLO and rejection of transforming Jordan into a substitute homeland for the Palestinians.

Candidates of Palestinian origin are trying to make a point that there is no contradiction between the Palestinian refugees' claim to their historical right to return to their homeland and exercising their political rights in Jordan.

But there is a clear distinction between the attitudes of the refugees of 1948 — who are mainly concentrated in the First District and in the Wihdat camp in the Second District — and refugees displaced in 1967.

For while the refugees of 1948 are more concerned not to jeopardise their civil and political rights in Jordan — since their hopes for repatriation have been diminished following the Oslo accord — the second category is keen to keep both.

The current elections campaign in the two districts has revealed a growing trend among Palestinians, mainly traditionalist politicians and notables, who are already rallying support for future unity between Jordan and a future Palestinian entity on federal basis.

The attitude of traditionalist politicians, some of whom were members of the old Jordanian Parliament representing the West Bank, such as Mohammad Thoubai and Wahid Al Ja'abri in the Second District, is consistent with their long-standing position.

But it was Mr. Fara'neh, who has spent most of his life in PLO groups, who is actively and persistently pursuing the goal of unity "on equal basis between the two people," and who publicly expresses his opposition to the idea of an independent Palestinian state.

"I will oppose the idea of two independent Jordanian and Palestinian entities," he says.

Mr. Fara'neh has become the first candidate to contest the elections while he remains a member of the Palestine National Council. The Interior Ministry initially turned down his application for nomination but the courts later revoked that decision.

Mr. Fara'neh, at one stage a leftist who spent ten years in jail, does not see a contradiction since his "membership of the PNC and candidacy are consistent with the goal of future unity."

Sharp differences among pro-PLO groups and leftist candidates in the first district have thwarted all attempts by mediators to talk the candidates to withdraw in favour of Mr. Khawaja. The split and scattered votes will further boost Sheikh Fakir's chances as well those of tribal candidates.

According to experts, around 85 per cent of the residents of the first district are Palestinian refugees,

mostly of 1948.

The Al Da'aja tribe has the most dominant presence in the area. Al Da'aja tribe are the original landowners of the areas where Palestinian refugees settled when they first came to Jordan — including the Hussein refugee camp, and the neighbourhoods of Al Nozha, Wadi Al Hadadeh, Al Hashemi and Al Mahata.

A prominent Al Da'aja leader, Hamed Abu Jamous, came fourth in 1989 but failed by a huge margin of votes, (4362 votes) after the three Islamists, (independent) Sheikh Faghr (13,418 votes), (Brotherhood) Abdul Azz Jabr (11,188 votes) and (Brotherhood) Majed Khalifeh (9,708 votes). Dr. Khalifeh had pulled out from the race earlier on, and Mr. Abu Jamous thus becomes a more serious contender. Mr. Abu Jamous will not rely solely on tribal vote. In fact, he seems to muster considerable support among refugees and, like many Da'aja notables, enjoys a good reputation as an advocate of national unity.

Another Da'aja, who is actually the "official" candidate of the clan, Rashid Al Brayseh, is influential in the Hashemi neighbourhood and is hoping to attract Palestinian votes by offering "services" for refugees.

In the second district the strongest leftist candidates are Mr. Rateh Al Jneidi and Mr. Nizar Al Kayed. But while Mr. Kayed officially represents the Jordanian Progressive Party — an offshoot of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) that has no official ties with the PLO, Mr. Jneidi is running as independent, although he is closely affiliated with Al Wahda Party.

Mr. Jneidi is appealing for support among the big concentration of fellow Hebronites in the second district. A more traditional politician, Waheed Al Jabari will also syphon off some of the Hebronite vote.

In 1989, the second districts' three seats went to two Brotherhood figures and an independent Islamist. They are Sheikh Abu Zant (19,343), Ali Hawamdeh (12,765 votes) and (independent) Sheikh Yacoub Qarrash (5,082). Dr. Hawamdeh and Sheikh Qarrash have not entered the race. A Fateh candidate, Fahd Bayari, who is

president of Al Wihdat camp's cultural club, can also do well in this district, depending on whether supporters of PLO can bring about a sea change in the Islamists' fortunes.

Activists and analysts say that this polarisation of Palestinians, according to place of origin, has been reinforced by the one-person, one-vote system as many contenders believe that minimum votes could win them parliamentary seats.

This phenomenon, the practical parallel to tribal affiliations among Jordanians, is one of the trademarks of the campaign in the first and second districts and probably among concentration of Jordanians of Palestinian origin.

Dr. Hawamdeh's replacement by Mr. Mansour in the second district, a move ordered by the IAF, is said to be due to a sharp drop in the former's popularity, who last time relied heavily on Sheikh Abu Zant's popularity to get the votes.

It remains unclear how the IAF is planning to split its votes between its two candidates in the second districts (in the First, it has only one, Mr. Jabr). Some suggest the IAF is going to split female and male votes between the two; others believe there will be a geographic distribution of voters: neighbourhoods will be divided between the two candidates.

To a large extent the outcome of the elections will be determined by the turnout on Monday. A low turnout is expected to serve the IAF, who will make sure their members and supporters will show up at the polling booths. In the first district of 97,735 registered voters, a candidate needs to secure above 4,000 votes. While in the second district, of 111,752 registered voters, a winner will have to get at least 5,000 votes.

By Friday afternoon, the percentage of those who had actually collected their voting cards were 40 and 50 per cent in the first and second districts respectively, probably the lowest figures in the Kingdom.

Talking into consideration the fragmentation of the two districts, the high number of contenders, 21 and 22 respectively, the future deputies might rely on less than 2,000 votes resulting in a very narrow representation of the two areas.

## IAF rally

(Continued from page 1)

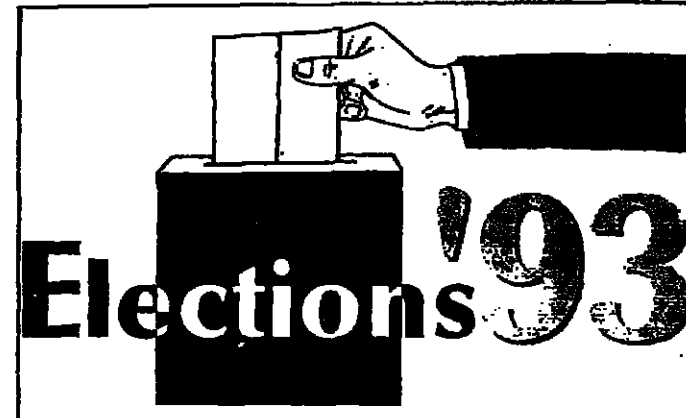
chanted songs glorifying jihad and lamenting the fate of the crippled Palestinian leader, Ahmad Yassin, whom Israel is refusing to release from a Gaza prison. But the applause and enthusiasm of the crowd was markedly low compared with the enthusiasm and numbers of the Islamist supporters that gathered in the same square in Wihdat just four years ago.

A storekeeper across the street from the rally place remarked that although both Mr. Mansour and maverick candidate Sheikh Abdul

Munem Abu Zant may win seats in Parliament again, "this will be their last chance to prove that they can change our conditions here and make our lives better. Leave Palestine to the Palestinians, we here are concerned about Jordan."

This comment would undoubtedly not have been heard four years ago when the power divisions over the occupied territories where not as clearly drawn as they are today, according to an observer of the election scene here.

"Palestine is now in the hands of the PLO and Hamas. We here are not involved in what is happening, we are only observers," concluded the storekeeper.



## Fourth District challenges conservatives

(Continued from page 1)

this time around.

"This is an introduction into politics for this young man. He may have a better chance during the next elections," one female member of the Hadid family told the Jordan Times.

A rival clan of the Hadid family, Sahab's Abu Zaid's, is fielding this time Ahmad Abu Zaid, who is also expected to challenge the Hadid presence as a representative of the Fourth District.

The IAF for its part has chosen a member of the Sahab-based Maharmneh clan as its candidate and will reportedly rely heavily on Sahab residents as well as the district's-Palestinian population to seek victory.

Rival elements, however, pushed two other members of Mr. Maharmneh's clan to run against him to weaken his chances. One of the two, Mohammad Al Maharmneh, withdrew from the race this weekend in favour of his cousin the IAF candidate, Mohammad Abdul Karim Maharmneh.

Candidate Maharmneh has thus replaced Hamzeh Mansour as the official Islamist contender in the Fourth District. Mr. Mansour was nominated by his party to run for one of the seats in the Second District along with

Sheikh Abdul Munem Abu Zant (see story above).

"Most of the Palestinians here are conservative Hebronites who will vote for the IAF candidate, but some are expected to give their votes to Mr. Qatameh," noted Abu 'Alanda storekeeper Mohammad Hashlemon.

Abu 'Alanda residents have their own candidate, namely Mohammad Huneidi, who will represent his clan in these elections.

Land ownership and employer-employee relations dominate much of the politics here, which, except for some IAF activity, is exclusively limited to the male population.

Many women did not vote in the 1989 elections here although many had collected their voting cards. Of the 33,000 eligible voters who had picked up their voting cards, only 19,000 voted in 1989.

Some 50,848 voters had collected their cards by the weekend and the "unknown" (or first-time) voters are expected to make the difference this time around.

Whether these first time voters will vote tribal, IAF or Mr. Qatameh remains to be seen. No one in fact is willing to say more than that there are some six front-runners in the race. But even these, many observers here say, could be upset by a surprise winner or two.

## PLO puts off decision

(Continued from page 1)

showed that it simply did not understand the concept of withdrawal.

But Major General Amnon Shahak, the chief Israeli delegate, said the Israelis presented the plan as a basis for negotiation, not as an ultimatum.

Reports in Israel said the PLO was angry because the plan would let Israeli troops travel through settlements on Gaza's main roads, leaving the impression that the Israelis had not left at all.

In Israel, meanwhile, the daily Hadashot said the defence ministry's adviser on the occupied territories, Danny Rothschild, flew secretly to London apparently to open a new channel with the PLO to bypass the Taba talks.

Rabin spokesman Gad Ben-Ari would not comment specifically on the report. He said Israel was sticking to the Taba format but left open the possibility Israel would pursue other approaches linked to the Taba negotiations.

## U.S. stand

Washington believes it will be hard for Israel and the PLO to complete an accord on self-rule before the Dec. 13 dead-

line but has no plans to get involved now in the talks, a senior U.S. official said Thursday.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Washington as been kept fully briefed on the talks and would consider a request to intervene if one came from both sides.

But the administration does not believe the talks have collapsed and would prefer for Israel and the PLO to sort out the difficult issues on their own, the official said.

Palestinian negotiators in Jerusalem said the Palestinians were seeking greater U.S. involvement in the process. Currently, American diplomats are present at Taba, but not at the negotiating table.

"It is not enough for the United States to advise parties to the conflict," Saeb Erekat, deputy head of the Palestinian delegation, told the AP. "They have to raise their level of participation in the talks, not just watching and reporting."

Hanan Ashrawi, the spokeswoman of the Palestinian delegation, said in a telephone interview from Washington that the United States "would prefer receiving a similar request from Israel" before intervening.



## Multi-talented artist expresses 'belonging'

By Ica Wahbeh

**Jordan Times Staff Reporter**  
AMMAN — Among the temporary exhibitions hosted by Darat Al Funnun's halls is that of Ammar Khammash, architect, painter, restorer, designer of innovative spirit.

His water-colours on paper and oils on paper and wood mostly represent Jordan's architectural landscape which, Mr. Khammash feels, the artist has a duty to record for posterity.

"We should decipher our environment, register it, make our own Jordanian art. Why go abroad? Amman is a vertical city, buildings are abstractly built; Jordanian artists should be aware of this environment before dreaming of political subjects," says the artist talking about abstract and realism in art.

Articulate and driven by the a priori knowledge of what he wants to do, Mr. Khammash believes that artists who want to create abstract works should first have a knowledge of realism.

"You have to know reality to abstract. Art now went so abstract, it is self-destructive. All art in the West has landscape. We need this: without the foundation of documentary art we cannot jump to the Western art."

The artist is fascinated by shadow; he studies and delves into its projection and intensity at different times of the year, is intent on what shapes the shadow — the object forming it and the object receiving it — and considers as very important to know how a shadow of an object outside the painting is cast on the object in the painting while the viewer is between them, part, somehow, of the process.

So his landscapes, giving the sensation of space, are those of buildings, trees, nature basking under a glaring sun whose light the eye has difficulty to control and diminish.

Technically, the artist says, he draws in pencil on site and then "I paint what I want to get rid of, not what I want to show. I burn the spaces between trees and they come out like a photo negative. Sun here is very strong. You have overexposure on your eyes, sometimes to the point of hurting. It is like in photography: more aperture to light, more abstract the outcome."

It does not mean that this is abstract art; even what seems so is representation of a certain imaginary landscape, the way the artist perceives it: from elevation or in a plan.

"Do you look at something from high above or on horizontal?" Mr. Khammash asks when talking about two small-dimensioned oils on wood, products of his imagination and of high-concentration works, "as if in sleep or trance."

The desire to three-dimensionalise the two dimensions, a desire characteristic to mankind since it started to represent the objects around him in times immemorial, is masterfully done by Mr. Khammash with his play of shadow and light.

He does so with nature, where the blades of soil ploughed or maybe washed away by rain stand out on the flat surface, and with man's creation, building hanging on top of each other on cliffs.

He does so by painting the shadow, structuring his works to have spots of dark and white "hot, unpainted areas."

"I work somehow against the rules of physics. I believe you can increase something without necessarily adding, sometimes even by subtracting."

So he subtracts colour to increase white spaces, adopting the water-colour technique (where dilution of a colour can go to almost no colour) to oil.

But he also has the desire to two-dimensionalise three dimensions. And this is obvious in some of the painted pieces of wood, "mostly furniture that I structured together" where colour defies angles and grooves, naturally created by the superimposition of wood bits, and stubbornly flows to create the impression of continuity, reducing two dimensions to one, sort of an inverted trompe l'oeil.

Other than architectural landscape, Mr. Khammash's works represent nature (in the form of trees, flowers, vegetation) and still-life.

The pomegranates, whole or halved, are exquisitely represented. The well-structured ripe fruit shows its inner bounty through the dried skin and its fleshy seeds when cut.

Colours have taste for Mr. Khammash, so the greenish yellow matter around the seeds is a bitter reminder of his childhood's encounter with it.

And still-life is important for

him because by representing it over periods of time, he keeps a reference of what he is doing, sees "how I changed or not over years. I see what I discovered in my vision, how I changed a fixed thing; it gives me an assessment of my work."

But most important of all to Mr. Khammash are places. They haunt him, he dreams of them.

Interested in details, he knows his places well and feels that "my whole existence is uprooted when things I know are torn apart. It is a sense of place that they tear apart, and me with it. I feel safe when red poppies come back. They are here, I am here. I am safe."

Thence the desire to document places, to keep them as they are.

A delicate, almost Chinese or Japanese in representation, jasmine, whose stem is interwoven in the fabric of darkness around it, giving it a three-dimensional look, is also a brilliant combination of colours (or no colours as the artist sees it).

Painted at night, the heavy mass of night is dark green, blue, purple and the non-colour (and yet all colours together), the white flower, is sketched against this background.

The artist works extensively with this composition of colours and shapes. Two interiors, of his own room, are realised by the game of darkness-light texture, of very low, dark, and very high, light, painting.

Sometimes water-colour and oil are in the same painting. "It is like in music, where the need to shift from one register to another brings in all sorts of instruments. I shift oil into water-colour. I do not need heavy oil, but I also do not need nothing (plain paper); so I work in water-colour to represent lighter surfaces."

All new works, Mr. Khammash's frames will be on display at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation until Dec. 3. And for those with a developed sense of space, it will be like viewing a documentary about places that tomorrow the rush for urbanisation might erase for good.

## Snippets and tidbits from

# Campaign spurs jokes by Saltis who had been on receiving end; Islamists conduct internecine fights in open; journalists gag themselves

*The 1993 elections campaign, serious as it appears, is not devoid of a light — sometimes funny — side. These are tidbits about news, views and comments about the campaign that will appear (hopefully) every day in this corner until it is all over on Nov. 8. Humour is intended in the column, in no way libel.*

IF A prize could be given for the best jokes in the Kingdom, it should be given to jokes not about Saltis this time but on the election campaign. In a casual interview with a citizen of the city this week on the chances of the Islamic Action Front (IAF) in the election, he said: "No, there is no gain from placing them in Parliament." Asked why, he answered: "If Hasbul Latif couldn't do anything in Russia, do you think Abdul Latif will be able to in Jordan?" He was directly referring to former chairman of the Russian parliament Ruslan Khasbulatov and comparing him to Dr. Abdul Latif Arabiyat. But to him Latif sounded close enough to Latif for him to draw political conclusions. Sometimes analysis can be based on the most unlikely parallels.

ANNOUNCING SUPPORT for one candidate or another in the Third District is risky business, it seems. Every time a function is held that appears to favour one candidate over the other, the camp of his competitor(s) starts complaining. The issue is highlighted especially in the case of the three main contestants for the Muslim seat: Faris Nabulsi, Ali Abu

Ragheb and Taher Masri. Mr. Nabulsi, who has an across-the-board support among voters, was apparently criticised over the weekend for tying his name so closely to former deputy Laith Shbeilat. Critics say that Mr. Nabulsi stands on his own as a principled and respected politician who serves the interest of liberal leftist voters and does not need the support of an Islamist politician who is supposed to have retired from politics. But proponents of Mr. Nabulsi say that the alliance should be seen in its human rights context and not Islamist versus liberal. Mr. Abu Ragheb, a young, energetic businessman, did not escape criticism either. The Businessmen Association organised a gathering for him with Jordanian corporate moguls. Some voters are upset that the association did not host any other candidate in the district and appeared to be sending a message that Jordan's businessmen are endorsing the candidacy of Mr. Abu Ragheb and nobody else's, which, some of the participating businessmen say, is not true. "If a member of the association wanted to endorse Mr. Abu Ragheb's candidacy he should have held the function for him at his home," an angry businessman said. Not that Mr. Abu Ragheb would have been saved if that had happened. Because Mr. Masri, for whom a businessman called Riyadh Al Saifi hosted a meeting with voters, was also criticised for accepting Mr. Saifi's support. Not only that, some people were upset that his family's business com-

plex, Safeway, kept flashing his name on a digital sign that faces one of the most crowded traffic lights in western Amman. What can a candidate do in this world of checks and balances or lack of it?

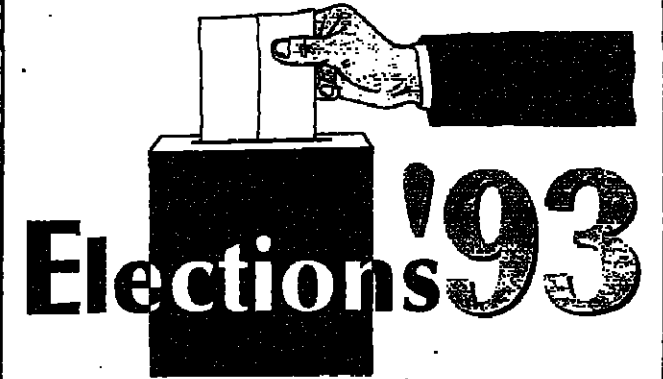
A CHRISTIAN candidate for the Third District, who had, by luck or marriage, guaranteed a good number of votes from a particular Christian community, lost his fortune for a little bit of greed. Having got the earlier support, the candidate wanted more than Christian votes: he approached the Islamists in a bid to seek their backing as well. No details of a meeting he held with the Islamists were leaked, but the news of it being held was enough for that ethnic community to reverse its decision to support him. Initial reports now indicate that the voters have decided that they would rather

cast their lot with another candidate who can be more true to his principles (and theirs).

DURING AN Islamic Action Front public rally in the city of Zarqa last week, some youth driving past thought they were missing a party. The group of young men, having already visited a bar, decided to join the party and have some fun. There were three of them. The first two were caught at the entrance and kicked out. The third escaped the hands of the organisers and managed to create a few tremors among the religious crowd, until of course he was caught. As he was dragged out, everyone who came close to him hit him with a chair or whatever was close by, until the reporter of the rally asked them to stop. The order took no more than a few seconds to be observed. Where some



The site of the 'party' in Zarqa (Photo by Yousef Al Allan)



are disorganised, others are not.

THE JORDAN Times wanted to understand this week why Arabic dailies have so far avoided writing analytical pieces predicting the outcome of the elections in the different districts. It was not because their reporters were incapable of writing them, we thought: It must be something else. Our own experience in the Jordan Times may give an indication as to what might be the reason. As reports were published on the different districts in this newspaper, phone calls kept pouring in from candidates or their friends demanding to know why our reporters favoured some candidates over others. One candidate, aware that he had little chance to win, wanted his name to be mentioned anywhere under an analysis on the "surprise element." Another, who also knew his chances were slim, wanted the paper to highlight his role as a "spoiler" for one of the frontrunners. A third, who had proposed himself as the candidate for the "silent majority" blasted the newspaper for its "lack of credibility" even though he knew that his "majority" most probably falls within the percentage that did not register to vote. And yet another, who did not read English, heard about one of our reports and wanted "a summary over the phone," because he had no time to come pick the newspaper up. And most other callers said that "media monopoly" by some of the candidates is what is getting them into the reports. The headache that reports cause journalists could therefore be responsible for Arabic papers refraining from writing at all. What else can

the reason be?

NIMR AL Haj Salmah Al Assaf, an IAF candidate in the fifth district, is being "oppressed" by his hawkiish colleagues Mohammad Abu Faris and Hamman Said who share the IAF ticket for that district with him. The two imposing personalities are trying to push him out of the race to guarantee themselves a place in Parliament. According to sources, Dr. Abu Faris and Said did not initially want Mr. Assaf to be included on the IAF list, and when they were forced to deal with it, they started working against him. They have common banners asking voters to stick with them, almost giving the impression that they are the only IAF candidates in that district. They have encroached on his "allocated" space in that district by attempting to contact voters who they were specifically told by the IAF leadership should be left to Mr. Assaf. The IAF, according to the sources, had asked the two hawks to concentrate their efforts on "Palestinian" voters and leave the tribal vote to Mr. Assaf, who is a scion of a large Jordanian clan. But they were caught later setting up contacts with the tribes. After all attempts to bring the two into line failed, the IAF took matters into its own hands. Dr. Ahmad Nofal, a highly respected leader of the Muslim Brotherhood Movement, and Youssef Al Athem, another equally influential IAF personality, have placed ads in the newspaper calling on voters to attend a rally for Mr. Assaf. No mention was made of Drs. Abu Faris and Said "who seem to think that they are the solution," as one observer put it.

Nermeen Murad

## No unilateral peace treaty

(Continued from page 1)

to elaborate. The Washington Post reported Thursday Israel has opened secret negotiations with Syria and Jordan.

Early Friday edition of the newspaper quoted "well-informed sources" as saying Mr. Peres had met secretly with senior Jordanian officials in a bid to achieve a quick breakthrough to peace.

At the same time, Israeli and Syrian defence officials were said to have met in Europe in the last few days to discuss security arrangements if Israel withdrew from the occupied Golan Heights.

The Post quoted a senior Israeli official as cautioning against a quick breakthrough. Mr. Peres touched off a wave of speculation Wednesday when he told Israel television, "remember the third of November."

Two Israeli ministers confirmed Friday Israel and Syria were secretly negotiating in a bid to reach a peace agreement.

"Israel, like any sovereign country uses open and secret diplomacy," Housing Minister Binyamin Ben Eliezer told Israel radio.

"The momentum has been maintained with Syria. It's no secret. Meetings are always taking place" between repre-

sentatives of both countries," he said.

But he refused to answer questions about a report in Thursday's newspapers that senior Israeli military officers had met their Syrian counterparts recently in a European capital.

The Hadashot newspaper said on Friday that Israeli Chief of Staff Ehud Barak led a delegation to talks with Syrians in Cyprus recently.

Both reports were denied, the first by Mr. Peres and the second by the defence ministry.

But Health Minister Chaim Ramon told Friday's Haaretz newspaper: "We are in permanent negotiations with the Syrians and the United States and Egypt are associated with that."

"The two countries pass on messages," he explained.

Israel had set two conditions, he said. "We want clarifications on security questions and the normalisation of relations between the two countries."

"I cannot say any more. When we have reached agreement on this, we will outline the scope of an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan."

Syria Friday denied it was pursuing secret talks with Israel, saying that the only meetings held were those scheduled under the terms of bi-

lateral peace talks in Washington.

"Reports on meetings or secret contacts between Syria and Israel are false," a Foreign Ministry spokesman quoted by the official SANA news agency said.

"The only framework under which the Syrian and Israeli parties are conducting discussions tied to the peace process between is that of the bilateral negotiating sessions in Washington and the efforts of the two co-sponsors (the United States and Russia)," he said.

Israeli media reported Friday Mr. Peres met secretly with His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday to discuss details of a future peace treaty.

Reports of the Nov. 2 meeting said it was somewhere on the southern Israeli-Jordanian frontier in the Gulf of Aqaba.

Spokesmen for Mr. Peres and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin declined comment on the reports.



Residents of Jerusalem's Old City pass by an Israeli borderguard searching a Palestinian

youth from Gaza, on his way to the mosque for the Friday noon prayer (AFP photo)

Israel radio said the purported discussions centred on the principles of an agreement for peace and economic cooperation.

The radio added, however: "Jordan will not take the plunge and sign a peace agreement before Israel reaches a similar agreement with Syria."

In Amman, officials said King Hussein had spent several days in Aqaba recently, but they refused to confirm or deny a meeting with Mr. Peres.

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# Economists see tide turning on Japan current account surplus

TOKYO (R) Japan's contentious current account surplus rose in September to a record \$63.71 billion for the six months to September, but economists and officials are convinced the tide will turn soon.

"There might have been a trend in the past that Japan's current account surplus continued to grow, but I have the impression that the trend has recently changed," a Finance Ministry official told reporters Friday.

The finance ministry said Japan's unadjusted current account surplus widened more than 10 per cent to \$13.31 billion in September from a surplus of \$12.06 billion a year earlier. It was \$7.23 billion in August.

The September trade surplus widened to \$14.65 billion in September from \$13.49 billion a year earlier and \$8.97 billion in August, the ministry said.

The September current account surplus was well within the range predicted by private economists — between \$11.6

and \$13.5 billion, unadjusted for seasonal factors.

The surplus for the six month period a year ago was \$57.04 billion.

The trade surplus rose to \$70.77 billion in the six-month period from a revised \$65.45 billion a year ago.

"The strength of the surplus is quite breathtaking...but it is probably in the last throes of the J-curve," said Chris Calderwood, economist at Barclays de Zoete Wedd Securities (Japan).

Nonetheless, economists agreed that the strong yen will start whittling away at the surplus, if not this year then early next year.

In the so-called J-curve effect, the yen's rise initially boosts the dollar value of exports before it reduces volume, thereby pushing up the surplus even as the strong currency saps the price competitiveness of Japanese goods overseas.

Only later does the strong yen dampen export volume enough to reduce the dollar

value of exports as well.

In yen terms, Japan's surpluses are already falling.

The current account surplus fell 5.3 per cent to 1.40 trillion yen (\$12.9 billion) in September from a year earlier while the trade surplus dropped 6.8 per cent to 1.54 trillion yen (\$14.2 billion).

"There's no disputing there was a big adjustment underway in the third quarter (in terms of export and import volumes) and eventually that will feed through into the dollar numbers," Mr. Calderwood said.

Economists said the strong yen had not only dampened export volume but increased the attractiveness of imports, and both trends were likely to continue.

The dollar value of exports rose in September to \$32.53 billion from \$27.08 billion in August and \$30.84 billion a year earlier. Imports totalled \$17.88 billion in September against \$18.11 billion in August and \$17.35 a year earlier.

"In volume terms, exports have been down since August and imports rising rapidly," said Nobuyuki Saji, economist at Nikko Research Centre.

"The fact that imports are rising even when the economy remains slow shows just how attractive they are."

The J-curve effect might continue to nudge the current account and trade surpluses up through the end of calendar 1992, but that from around January, both are likely to start to decline, Mr. Saji said.

In an earlier Reuters report, economists said that hauling Japan out of its worst post-war recession hinges on how effectively manufacturers can shake up production and create new product lines to lure back jaded consumers.

But they warned that the survival of corporate Japan would not be easy in view of the present government's desire to stop charting a course for industry, and without Western products to copy.

"Companies are now choked up with excessive production

capacity of unwanted goods, which is delaying the recovery and adding to gloomy employment prospects," said Teruhiko Mano, advisor to the president of Bank of Tokyo.

The slump in consumer spending, a major factor behind the recession, is not due to lack of cash to spend, but rather because there is nothing attractive to buy, economists said.

"Recovery from the recession hinges on whether companies can take the initiative to shake up their products and either meet or create consumer needs," Mr. Mano said.

But many firms, particularly large ones, are at a loss about what to do now that imitating Western products is no longer sufficient.

"In the past several decades, Japanese firms have been struggling to catch up with Western enterprises," said Yasushi Okada, senior economist of Daiwa Institute of Research Ltd.

But now that they have achieved, and in some instances even surpassed, the quality and production capacity of the West, they have lost direction, he said.

Restructuring of Japanese firms has so far focused on cutting non-essential costs, such as expensive dinners with clients or office equipment, instead of streamlining decades-old production lines, they said.

"All manufacturers are doing is lamenting the lack of consumer interest in unreasonably high-priced goods whose values don't live up to their price tags," Mr. Mano said.

For the past few decades the Japanese government has provided a basic scenario for domestic industries and given them detailed help so they could compete efficiently with Western industries.

But the new government of Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa is trying to slowly disengage itself from that role, the economists said.

"What Japan's new government is trying to do is to let the

## S. Korea receives record shipbuilding orders

SEOUL (AFP) — South Korea received a record amount of overseas shipbuilding orders this year, doubling the volume garnered by the world's traditional largest shipbuilder, Japan.

The Korea Shipbuilding Association (KSA) said the increase was "mainly thanks to the strong yen."

South Korea's nine shipyards had received a total of 8.7 million gross tonnes of overseas shipbuilding orders, worth more than \$7 billion, during the first 10 months through October.

The 8.7 million tonnes represented 6.5 times the amount of foreign orders South Korea had received during the same period last year. It also compared to 4.2 million tons of overseas orders Japan won during the first nine months to September.

The KSA said South Korean shipyards started having competitive edges over their Japanese competitors when the yen rose beyond 120 yen to the dollar.

## Dollar expected to continue to strengthen against European currencies

This report is submitted by Naser Nabulsi, private client group, Merrill Lynch-Dubai

### Overview

Fundamental view: The dollar has rallied to the DM 1.70 level in response to a sharp narrowing of U.S.-German interest rate differentials. U.S. money market rates have risen sharply in recent days in response to firm economic data. The dollar should continue to strengthen against European currencies in coming quarters as interest rates in Europe decline further. The U.S. and Japan both appear content to let the dollar remain indefinitely in the 100-to-110 range of recent months. But upward pressure on the yen is likely to reemerge next year even if Japan's current account surplus narrows somewhat. We continue to look for the dollar to rise to DM 1.85 while falling to yen 95 over the next 12 months.

Technical view: The U.S. dollar index was up over 2.4 per cent for the month of October. This represented the second largest monthly gain of 1993 and came as a result of broad dollar strength versus the European currencies and the Japanese yen. By contrast, the greenback suffered month-to-month declines against both the Australian and Canadian dollars. While long term momentum oscillators for the dollar are still upwardly biased, they are under pressure. This is best represented by the fact that, if the dollar index is unable to hold above the 93.60 area through the end of November, our primary long term momentum oscillator will turn down for the first time since its September 1992 low. That is the potential bad news.

The good news is that the dollar's oversold medium term oscillator has reversed to the upside versus not only the dollar index, but also versus each of the three major European currencies we regularly discuss as well as the Japanese yen. This would imply that the dollar index's July-October correction is either complete or virtually so. Since medium term rallies usually tend to last three months or more, this would suggest that the potential long term pressure will be alleviated.

From current levels, next resistance for the dollar index is indicated at this past summer's 95.80 high; a rally decisively through that level would allow for a challenge of 97.50-98.00. As for support, any near term correction that holds above 92.50 will likely be best interpreted as a normal reaction in a relative new uptrend. A penetration of that 92.50 level would allow for a full test of at least the October low (91.76) and perhaps the September low (90.29).

### Deutschemark

Fundamental view: The dollar's surge to the DM 1.70 level in recent days reflects a sharp narrowing of U.S.-German short-term interest rate differentials. The U.S.-German gap in two-year rates, which has been closely correlated with the Deutschemark exchange rate in recent years, has narrowed to about 125 basis points versus 165 basis points a week ago and 230 basis points in early May. Mounting evidence that the U.S. economy is beginning to experience more robust growth — our estimate is 4.2 per cent for the current quarter — has pushed money market rates up sharply in the U.S. in recent days as short-term interest rates in Germany have declined.

Relative business cycle and interest rate trends continue to point toward weaker European currencies in the year ahead. A 2% decline in German industrial production in September virtually erased a 2.2 per cent gain in the previous month, confirming that Germany's economy continues to stagnate.

Even if U.S. growth slows back to the 2.5-to-3.0 per cent range next year, as is widely expected, U.S. short-term interest rates should remain in a relatively narrow range next year while short-term rates in Germany fall to 4-4.5 per cent. We continue to look for the dollar to reach DM 1.80 and DM 1.85 over the next six and 12 months respectively.

Technical view: The Deutschemark dropped 3.2 per cent month-to-month versus the U.S. dollar. Long term momentum has been weak since last October and is likely to remain so as long as the currency is unable to rally to and through the 1.60 DM/U.S.\$ level. Nonetheless, long term sentiment is viewed as overbought and is at levels not seen in 12 months. This last point, plus the fact that medium term momentum oscillators have peaked, implies that the pressure will be on the currency in coming weeks. Finally, the currency's decline through 1.693 level in recent days has done much to imply that any subsequent DM rally will likely be only a reaction within a new downtrend, rather than a full-blow test of the recent highs at 1.59-1.60.

All of this tends to confirm the view that the currency's dominant longer term downtrend is still in force. This implies that an eventual decline to 1.75 and beyond remains a reasonably strong probability. The mark/yen cross-rate has moved into the benchmark 62-64 trading range even as medium term momentum appears to be constructive. However, short term oscillators are weak, and a more severe test of support is likely before the medium term strength can reassert itself. The 66.50-67.00 level has proven to be good resistance, and a decisive rally back through that benchmark would do much to signal further strength toward important chart resistance at 70-72.

### Pound sterling

Fundamental view: The pound remained at 1.48 U.S.\$/1 but traded higher against the DM at DM/£: 2.51 due to DM weakening versus the dollar. We continue to expect the pound to depreciate further against the dollar but strengthen against the DM, driven largely by projected changes in short-term interest rate differentials. We forecast a 45 basis point decline in three-month pound Eurorates over the next twelve months versus a 30 basis point rise in dollar rates and a 185 basis point fall in DM rates. Also underlying the pound's expected 12-month rise to DM/£: 2.61 are our above-consensus forecast of 1994 U.K. growth at 3.2 per cent and our below-consensus projection of no German growth in 1994. Our 12-month forecast for the U.S.\$/£: rate is 1.41.

Technical view: The British pound lost 1.0 per cent against the U.S. dollar last month. However, the relative strength properties for this currency appear to be somewhat stronger than those of some of the other European currencies. As with those currencies, medium term momentum has peaked, indicating a potential decline in coming weeks. Unlike those currencies, longer term oscillators appear to be bottoming. With longer term sentiment only neutral, this currency is

better positioned for a potential bottom than other European currencies. Thus, the anticipated upcoming medium term decline will have to be monitored closely. There is important long term chart support at 1.40-1.42 U.S.\$/£ and important long term momentum support at \$1.36-\$1.37. The ability to hold at or above these levels in coming weeks could well improve the chance that a longer term bottom is forming. More medium term support exists near \$1.46. Important long term resistance exists near \$1.60, but there is interim resistance in the 1.55-1.58 range.

Versus the DM, sterling has been able to maintain its relative strength. However, medium term momentum for the cross-rate appears to be bottoming. While such a bottom may be delayed for a few weeks by the fact that short term oscillators are overbought, when they do bottom, they will join already upwardly biased long term indicators. Such a development would do much to support the currency's developing relative strength position. Nearby resistance exists at 2.50-2.53. Important support is at 2.43-2.44.

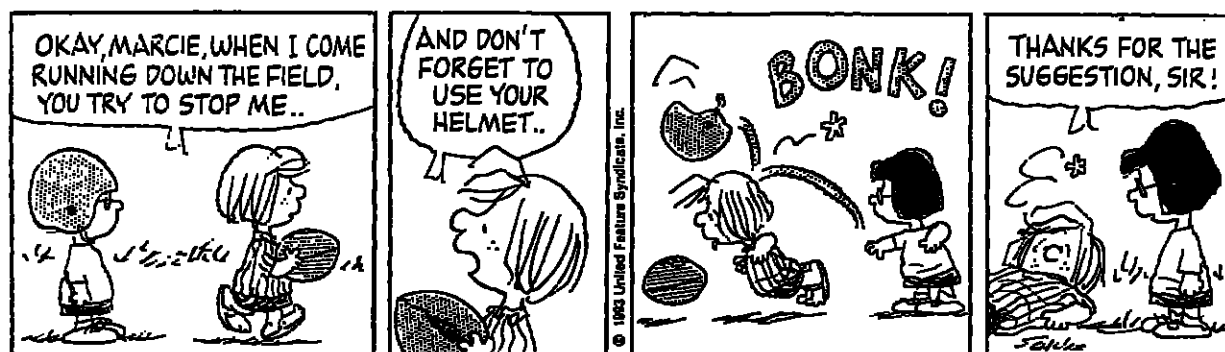
### Japanese yen

Fundamental view: The dollar has pulled back to the 107 level against the yen in recent days, even as it strengthened against European currencies. The yen is typically less sensitive to interest rate differentials than the European currencies and has reacted little to the sharp rise in U.S. short rates in recent days. Recent comments by Mr. Fred Bergsten, a Washington-based economist whose views are considered influential within the Clinton administration, may have helped boost the yen. Mr. Bergsten recommended that central banks take concerted action if the dollar rises to above the 110 yen level to help enforce a target range of 100-to-110 yen. He also noted that the yen will need to rise to the 95 level against the dollar to curtail Japan's current account surplus if Japan's economy remains weak. This view is consistent with our forecast for further yen strength in 1994. Recent Japanese economic data continue to point to a "double-dip" recession, with industrial production in October expected to fall a sharp 5.9 per cent. Although Japan's global trade surplus appears to have peaked in July, its surplus against the U.S. has risen in recent months.

We would not be surprised to see the U.S. seek further yen appreciation next year if Japan's external surplus remains high against the backdrop of a sluggish economy. We maintain our 6-and-12-month forecasts for the yen/USD rate of 100 and 95 respectively. Over the next twelve months, we look for the yen to trade in a broad range of 90-to-110 against the dollar.

Technical view: The Japanese yen fell 2.3 per cent against the U.S. dollar last month for its largest monthly decline since October of last year. Nonetheless, long term momentum for the yen did confirm the recent highs and remains downwardly biased. At the same time, long term sentiment is near oversold and is approaching levels last seen in early 1992 and again in early 1993 — near fairly important yen lows. We are still inclined to think that the currency has the potential to move lower, toward the 110-112 JY/U.S.\$ area. Regardless of whether that level is achieved, upcoming weakness will be viewed in the context of a still intact long term uptrend. The August high near 100 should continue to provide both chart and psychological resistance for the currency.

## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



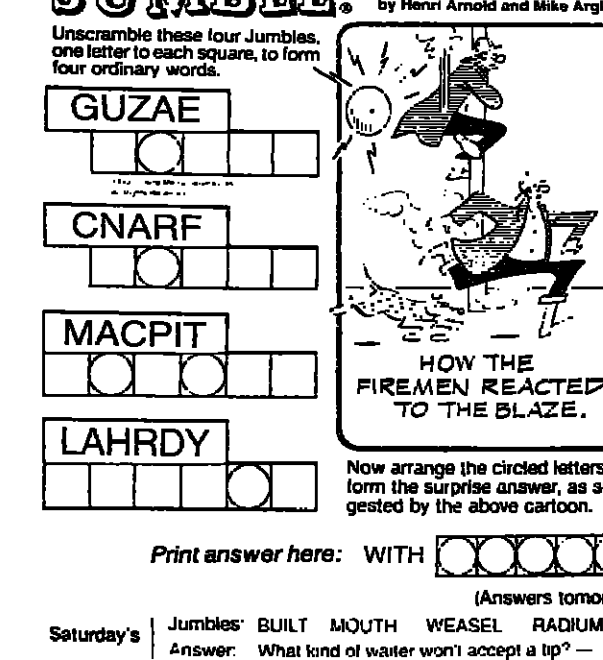
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## N. Korea may attack South in desperation — U.S. official

ELMENDORF AIR FORCE BASE, Alaska (Agencies) — North Korea has massed 70 per cent of its military force near South Korea and might launch a desperate conventional attack sparked by hunger and economic frustration in Pyongyang, a senior U.S. defence official said Friday.

"The North Koreans have continued to increase their production of (military) equipment. They are more forward deployed and I think we may be entering a kind of danger zone here," said the official, flying home to Washington from Seoul with Defence Secretary Les Aspin.

"These guys (North Koreans) are starving" and may feel that "you can either starve or get killed in a war," said the official, warning that North Korea would certainly lose such a war but that rational thinking might not carry the day in Pyongyang.

The official, who asked not to be identified, told reporters that new political reality and a buildup of Northern forces on the border since 1990 have moved the United States and South Korea to reassess the military balance to determine if their forces should be strengthened.

Mr. Aspin held three days of

talks with officials in Japan and South Korea this week on fears that North Korea is carrying out a secret programme to develop nuclear weapons.

A heavily armed North Korean military of 1.1 million troops faces 700,000 South Korean and 37,000 American troops on the troubled peninsula, where the Korean War ended in an uneasy armistice in 1953.

About 70 per cent of the North Korean force is now within striking range of South Korea, the official said.

There was no indication if or when a North Korean attack might come, the official added, but a shattered economy and outside pressure on Pyongyang to halt its alleged quest for nuclear arms has suddenly changed the scenario on the peninsula. The official said there was no way of telling what North Korea, headed by 81-year-old supreme leader Kim Il-Sung, might be planning in the face of growing international isolation and a cutoff in military support from the former Soviet Union and China.

"We ought to think our way through what they might be thinking about and what might cause them to make a grave

miscalculation," the official told reporters.

He noted that North Korea's military, while heavily armed, was suffering from a lack of fuel and regular training.

But despite warnings from the United States that it could face international sanctions, North Korea has refused to open its nuclear facilities to inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and resolve concerns that it is trying to build nuclear arms.

"They have moved their forces further forward. It's now, I think, 70 per cent up right close to the border in the last three years or so," the official said Friday. "And they are saying that 1995 is the year that they are going to reunify the peninsula by force."

There is no question, I think, by any objective observer about how this thing (a war) would turn out," the official said.

Meanwhile, North Korea, apparently distraught over a U.N. resolution on its nuclear inspection issue, has called its Central Party Committee into an emergency session to discuss countermeasures, news reports said Friday.

It also reportedly commanded its troops to crop their hair

short and increase combat alert.

South Korean newspapers, quoting an unnamed senior government official, said that the Central Committee of the North's ruling (Communist) Workers' Party will convene next week, about one month ahead of schedule.

The North Korean moves appear related to mounting nuclear tensions on the peninsula, the papers quoted the same official as saying.

The Central Committee, made up of about 140 delegates, is the supreme organisation of the Communist North's ruling party.

The Central Committee meeting was called after the U.N. General Assembly adopted a resolution Monday urging the North to comply with obligations and inspections under an international nuclear controls treaty which it joined in 1985, the papers said.

North Korea denounced the resolution as encroaching on its sovereignty.

Upset by the U.N. resolution, North Korea cancelled a scheduled meeting this week with the South to protest what it called a belligerent statement by South Korean Defence Minister Kwon Yong-Hae.

## Bosnia troops loot Vares, block food convoy

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Bosnian army troops blocked a U.N. food convoy to refugees from the captured Croat pocket of Vares after undisciplined troops from this mainly Muslim force went on a looting spree in the beleaguered town, U.N. military and aid officials said Friday.

At one point Thursday local Bosnian army commanders asked U.N. Protection Force troops to help them control the situation but the request was turned down since it was outside the forces' mandate, a U.N. military spokesman said.

Several hundred troops from the army's Seventh Brigade Thursday blocked a U.N. convoy carrying food supplies to 620 refugees, including around 100 Bosnian Croats, sheltering at the camp of Swedish U.N. troops a few kilometres north of Vares.

The convoy was only allowed through after the arrival of French U.N. troops sent from Sarajevo.

Troops from the Seventh Brigade began looting televi-

sions and audio equipment from deserted homes after seizing Vares Wednesday, said Lt-Col. Bill Aikman, spokesman for the U.N. Protection Force here.

"We have received reports of systematic looting in the sense of televisions, stereos, you name it, being moved out," Col. Aikman said.

The second Corps coming from the north advised UNPROFOR forces in the area in the afternoon that they were concerned about the situation in the town of Vares and asked them to help resolve the situation.

"We are not in the business of trying to control crops of armies of any party in the conflict, so we could not do that," Col. Aikman said.

The spokesman said he had been told a battalion of Bosnian police was being sent to the area Friday to help restore the situation.

Ray Wilkinson, spokesman for the office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) here, said when

Seventh Brigade troops entered the town the "situation began to change and deteriorate virtually immediately."

"The UNHCR sent an emergency food convoy to Nordbat (Scandinavian U.N. Battalion) headquarters to feed the 620 people sheltering there."

"It was stopped by several hundred soldiers of the Seventh Brigade clustered around one check-point."

"They simply refused to allow it forward," he said, until French U.N. reinforcements arrived.

Sarajevo's southern front lines were hit by low-level but almost constant small arms, heavy machine gun and mortar fire overnight.

Residents said the shooting abated as a rainy, misty dawn broke in the Bosnian capital.

Croatian radio said Croatian army positions behind the Adriatic coastal town of Biograd came under Serb fire, while the town itself was hit by three artillery shells.

In Belgrade, Serbian Presi-

dent Slobodan Milosevic has declared war on his former extreme rightwing ally, the radical party of Vojislav Seselj, arresting 13 party militants on charges of terrorism, murder and banditry ahead of snap elections next month.

The militants, all members of the party's paramilitary formations, were arrested late Thursday in Belgrade and four provincial cities, Belgrade Television reported quoting a communiqué from the Interior Ministry.

It is the first time that Serbian authorities have engaged in a head-on confrontation with Seselj's militia, which numbers around 2,000 armed men according to foreign experts and nearly 8,000, according to the Yugoslav military.

With early elections for the Serbian parliament called for Dec. 20, Mr. Milosevic's Serbian Socialist Party (ex-Communist) spectacularly split with Seselj after a year's coalition, which had allowed the Socialists to govern.

## Talks with Kashmir rebels resume amid curfews

SRINAGAR, India (Agencies) — A new negotiator resumed talks Friday with die-hard Muslim guerrillas entrenched in the besieged Hazratbal Mosque as riot police clamped a strict curfew and broke up sporadic Kashmiri street protests.

Mehmood Ur Rehman, a senior Kashmir administration official, held three rounds of talks with rebel leaders inside the lakeside mosque in an effort to end the impasse, which entered its 21st day, but he made no headway, the police said.

Mr. Rehman replaced Wajahat Habibullah, who was critically injured Thursday when his car collided with an army truck. He was hospitalised in a coma in a setback to the efforts for a settlement.

Mr. Habibullah had been heading the tortuous negotiations with the 50 armed militants to persuade them to surrender and release 60 to 70 civilians who also have been trapped in the mosque since the night of Oct. 15.

Kashmir Police Chief Manohar Nath Sabharwal told reporters that the guerrillas were still rigidly holding out, blocking a settlement that the Indian government insists should be within the "bounds of law."

He refused to disclose details of the negotiations, which resumed after a day's standstill.

The rebels have demanded that the army lift the siege of Hazratbal and also insisted on safe passage. Both conditions have been rejected by the gov-

ernment. As the standoff continued, riot police using bamboo staves and tear gas scattered several hundred Kashmiri Muslim demonstrators who gathered on the streets and attempted to set off for Hazratbal, witnesses said.

Some 400 worshippers shouting "we want freedom" and "God is great" emerged from a mosque in the Sonawar area after the weekly Friday prayers and were dispersed.

Similar demonstrations were staged in four other neighbourhoods and scattered with minimum use of force, and no major violence was reported, senior superintendent of police Ram Lubhaya said.

A strict curfew was clamped on and paramilitary troops deployed in strength in Srinagar.

A series of Indian regional elections began Saturday that could prove critical for Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao and the high ambitions of the opposition Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Four of the five states which vote for new assemblies over the next three weeks were ruled by the BJP until Mr. Rao dismissed their governments and put them under central rule after Hindu extremists tore down a northern mosque last December.

The Hindu nationalists may have to win them all back and take Delhi, which votes Saturday for its first ever assembly, to maintain the momentum that has taken the BJP from the political fringes to centre stage in less than decade.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Japan LDP loses another defector

TOKYO (R) — Another member of Japan's main opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) has defected to the government in disgust at the LDP's stubborn resistance to ending political corruption, his aides said Friday. Lower house member Kenji Yamaoka's defection hit the party hard, coming just before the LDP was to enter crucial talks with Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa's coalition on a key political reform measure now stalled in parliament. Top negotiators from the two sides were due to meet later Friday in an attempt to break the logjam. Meanwhile top politician Ichiro Ozawa, one of the kingpins of Japan's ruling coalition, admitted Friday he took money from a building firm but said the sums were legal political donations. Kyodo News Agency reported. Earlier Friday, the daily Asahi Shimbun said Mr. Ozawa, now co-leader of Shinseito (the Japan Renewal Party), regularly took big unreported cash gifts from construction giant Kajima Corp., which is at the heart of a spreading payoff scandal. Commenting on the report, Mr. Ozawa told reporters he thought the donations from Kajima were legal. Kyodo said. Asahi quoted sources close to Shinji Kiyoyama, senior vice president of Kajima, as saying he handed Mr. Ozawa gifts of five million yen (\$46,000) every six months for several years. "The (Asahi) report is a curious one. They (the Kajima funds) were legal donations," Kyodo quoted Mr. Ozawa as saying.

### U.S. presses China on human rights

MANILA (AFP) — The U.S. State Department warned China Friday to improve its human rights record swiftly or forfeit its most favoured nation (MFN) trading status next year despite growing high-level contacts. Winston Lord, assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, said in a video conference with Asian capitals that a planned meeting in Seattle this month between presidents Bill Clinton and Jiang Zemin was "a very important event." He said talks at lower levels so far had produced no "substantive progress" although the "tone of our relationship" has "somewhat improved." "We must have rapid, early progress on human rights in order to preserve MFN next spring," Mr. Lord said as he fielded questions from Asian officials, experts and journalists in a live broadcast.

### U.S. approves \$22b to fight crime

WASHINGTON (R) — The Senate has approved \$22 billion in funds to fight violent crime by hiring 100,000 more police officers and building more prisons. The money was part of an amendment added to a sweeping anti-crime bill being considered by the Senate. The amendment was drafted by Senator Robert Byrd, a West Virginia Democrat, with Republican support. "I consider the crime problem a major crisis that is getting worse and worse every day," Sen. Byrd said before the 94-4 vote. The money would come from a trust fund using money saved from a reduction in federal employees expected through a government reorganisation plan. Earlier, the House Judiciary Committee passed a separate bill to set a five-day national waiting period for handgun sales. The legislation, known as the Brady Bill for former White House Press Secretary James Brady, may be voted on in the full House of Representatives next week. The Senate is also expected to take it up this month. Mr. Brady was shot and crippled during the 1981 assassination attempt against President Ronald Reagan.

### 'Ukraine warheads in alarming state'

MOSCOW (R) — Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev said Friday Moscow had received extremely alarming information from Ukraine about the state of nuclear warheads in the republic. ITAR-TASS news agency reported. Mr. Kozyrev told TASS that the warheads had deteriorated so badly it could lead to a tragedy "much worse than Chernobyl." Mr. Kozyrev spoke to TASS before he flew to the Ukrainian city of Odessa for talks about the nuclear warheads, which Kiev is refusing to ship to Russia as agreed until it is paid compensation. "Literally in the last few hours we have been receiving extremely alarming information from Ukrainian representatives themselves about the technical state of a number of rockets," Kozyrev said. TASS reported. "The technical state of some of the warheads could lead to a tragedy much worse than Chernobyl," the minister underlined. Ukraine has agreed to dismantle its nuclear arsenal but is resisting Western pressure to hand the warheads to Russia for destruction.

### Kohl hits back at critics of EC union

BONN (AFP) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl lashed out Friday at Germans who bitterly criticised European union this week, including from his own coalition, saying he did not want to see the goal turn into just "an improved free-trade zone." "We need Europe, especially as Germans," Mr. Kohl said in a statement to the Bundestag, or upper house of parliament, addressed to "those who have had enough of Europe." He was aiming at Edmund Stoiber, head of the Christian Socialist Union (CSU), the Bavarian branch of Mr. Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU). Mr. Stoiber defied Mr. Kohl Tuesday by calling for a clean break from the united Europe policies Germany has pursued since the days of post-war Chancellor Konrad Adenauer (1949-1963). "We no longer want a federal Europe," Mr. Stoiber said. His remarks, an implicit attack on the central plank of Mr. Kohl's policies since he took office in 1982, came a day after the Maastricht Treaty went into force, transforming the 12-nation European Community (EC) into a European union.

## ANC army announces big peace drive in townships

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — The African National Congress (ANC) army Friday announced a major drive for peace in black townships, including the creation of self-protection units and joint patrols with police and the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP).

Oupa Monareng, regional commander of Umkhonto We Sizwe (Spear of the Nation, or MK), told a news conference that MK planned to play a key role in curbing violence and creating a climate for free political activity in black areas.

He said the regional MK command had called a consultative conference this weekend with its allies, including the South African Communist Party and the ANC youth and women's leagues, to draw up a joint strategy to combat violence.

The main focus would be on the battleground belt of townships east of here, centred on Tokoza and Katlehong, where an average six to seven people a day are being killed in fierce political fighting, Mr. Monareng said.

Among the strategies proposed by MK were the transformation of current single-party self-defence units into multi-party self-protection units as prescribed by the 1991 national peace accord signed by most major parties.

Unlike the self-defence units, which are blamed for fanning rather than curbing violence, the protection units would be recognised by all parties, licensed, properly equipped and fully monitored, Mr. Monareng said.

MK also planned to encourage community policing and gear itself for involvement in a proposed national peacekeeping force to be formed ahead of the country's first all-race elections next April, he added.

The ANC's deputy regional secretary, Obed Bapela, said MK was ready to take part in joint patrols in the troubled areas with IFP and any unit of the police other than the Internal Stability Unit (ISU) — the riot squad.

Earlier this week, the ANC distanced itself from a police statement announcing the joint patrols, but Mr. Bapela said this applied only to patrols with the ISU, which the organisation claims is behind the violence.

He stressed, however, that further discussion on the commanding and training of the units was essential.

Mr. Bapela reiterated an ANC call for the withdrawal of the ISU from East Rand townships, saying it was a "discredited force."

Police deny that the ISU is fuelling the violence and warns against large scale bloodletting if the unit is withdrawn.

The police blames the violence on fierce rivalry between IFP and ANC.

Nceba Soyaya, an ANC official from Tokoza, told the press conference that Tokoza residents would launch a "programme of action" Monday to force out the ISU.

The programme would include a consumer boycott of the nearby white towns of Germiston and Alberton.

## Mother convicted of killing track star

PHILADELPHIA (R) — A 43-year-old woman was convicted of murdering her 17-year-old daughter, a nationally ranked track star. The jury convicted the woman, Vivian King, of third-degree murder, a conviction that could send Mrs. King to prison for a maximum of 20 years. The prosecution contended that Mrs. King shot her daughter, high school senior Shelia Turner, in a drunken rage that resulted from arguments over the boy's friends she had. Prosecutors had sought a first-degree murder conviction that would have carried the death penalty. The girl's body was found in the city's sprawling Fairmount Park on Feb. 20, a month after Mrs. King reported her daughter missing. She was shot five times and covered with leaves, twigs and a piece of linoleum. Mrs. King was a suspect almost from the first day of the investigation into the killing of the teenager, who had been a star on the William Penn High School track team. Mrs. King went to police on March 6 to ask if she were a target of their investigation and underwent 10 hours of questioning that led to a confession. But the interview was not tape-recorded and the defence contended that the confession was coerced. Defence lawyers argued the killing was the result of a robbery. The defence also pointed to inconsistencies in the state's case, chief among them that the murder weapon and the defendant's guns were of different calibres. The murder weapon was never found.

## Picasso collection sells for \$32m

NEW YORK (R) — Sotheby's sold an entire private collection of 88 works by Picasso for \$32 million, ending two days of auctions of impressionist and modern art on a high note. In a night that made up in enthusiasm what it lacked in high drama, the auction house managed to raise \$11 million more than the presale high estimate for the sale. The success of the Picasso sale and two days of solid sales of impressionist and modern art means that Sotheby's has now earned \$93 million, the highest total in its biannual auctions since their market collapsed in the spring of 1991. The top price at the Picasso auction was \$4.4 million, paid by a private American buyer for a large 1932 painting entitled "Femmes d'Enfants au Bord de la Mer." Seven of the other top 10 prices topped \$1 million. A full-length preparatory sketch for the painting "L'Acteur" sold for \$1.02 million, and a death-mask crayon self-portrait, made shortly before the artist died, sold for almost \$500,000 — five times the presale high estimate. Officials at the auction house said they were delighted by the results of the sale, saying it proved the market was strong enough to absorb all the Picassos offered for sale without flinching. "I think this is a very healthy sign," said David Nash, director of the Impressionist and Modern Art Department of Sotheby's International.

## Sixties hit closes after loss-making run

LONDON (AP) — Hair, the sixties hit musical, is to close on Nov. 20 after a two-month, loss-making run, the Old Vic Theatre announced Thursday. The 26 members of the cast and 11 musicians agreed two weeks ago to take a 33 per cent pay cut in an attempt to stave off closure. "The company's generosity gave us a stay of execution but sadly business shows no sign of building beyond November and the producer David Mirvish has decided reluctantly to close the show," said executive producer Andrew Leigh. Even though three-quarters of the seats were sold the updated production of the 1968 peace and love classic was losing £15,000 (\$22,500) a week when the pay cut was agreed. The £1.5 million (\$2.25 million) production opened Sept. 14 with a cast including American actor Paul Hipp (Buddy), Australian bearthrob Felice Arena (from the TV soap Neighbours), and pop singers Sinitta and Peppi Lawrie Demaque. John Barrowman, born in Scotland but raised in the United States, plays the pivotal role of the doomed Claude. The show was co-produced by Mirvish, the Canadian owner of the 970-seat Old Vic theatre with his brother, Ed, and real-estate tycoon Abe Hirschfeld, who made waves in New York earlier this year when he attempted to buy the bankrupt New York Post.

## Malibu fire declared under control; 2 more die

MALIBU, California (R) — Weary firefighters declared the wildfires that roared through Malibu's celebrity enclaves under control early Friday as the death toll from the blazes rose to three.

Movie stars and other residents returned to scenes of devastation in their exclusive enclaves.

The charred bodies of two people were found in the burned-out remains of a car late Thursday, the bodies so badly burned it was impossible even to identify their sex, a Los Angeles County Sheriff's spokesman said.

Spokesman Rich Erickson said the bodies were discovered by a sheriff's helicopter pilot surveying the scene of destruction. "He saw the burned-out car and then realised there were two bodies in it," the spokesman said.

"The vehicle was so badly burned it was impossible to tell the make of the car or the sex of the people in it," he said. The grim discovery brought the number of victims from the Malibu blaze — a replay of the wildfires that plagued southern California last week — to three.

British movie director and screen writer Duncan Gibbins, 41, died late Wednesday after suffering burns over 95 per cent of his body while trying to save his cat.

The cat survived the fires and was being cared for at an animal centre.

A Los Angeles county fire spokesman said the fire — the latest of 18 blazes — was 100 per cent contained early Friday, and that the few spot fires that remained were well away from inhabited areas.

Authorities also said the deadly blaze was the work of an arsonist. Los Angeles County Fire Department investigator Jerry Beck said either a match or a cigarette lighter had been used to ignite the tinder-dry brush.

A \$250,000 reward has been offered for information leading to the arrest of the arsonist. The fire destroyed 350 homes in Malibu and left at least 1,000 people homeless.

More than 120 people, about half of them firefighters, were injured in the firestorm.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced it would open an office in Malibu to deal with applications for help.

Four other FEMA centres were opened in the last week in southern California to handle claims from a series of firestorms that have devastated the area.

In all, more than 1,000 homes have been destroyed, thousands have been made homeless and property damage has been estimated at \$1 billion in five southern California counties since Oct. 26, making it one of the worst disasters in California's history.

Wary fire crew were aided by cooler, calmer weather Thursday, conditions expected to continue into next week. Authorities said the cooler weather, coupled with higher humidity, would allow firefighters to snuff out the remaining hot spots.

Gibbins, 41, was an up-and-coming Hollywood figure whose credits included the films Fire With Fire and Eve Of Destruction.

Authorities said Gibbins' death was being treated as a homicide, meaning that murder charges could be filed if the person who set the Malibu fire was caught.

Residents trickled back to survey the destruction Thursday, some standing dazed and fearful in the wreckage of their homes.

"Things are getting under control, but the damage is done," said Fire Department spokesman Steve Ruda.

The \$4 million carbon canyon mansion actor Sean Penn once shared with ex-wife Madonna lay in smouldering ruins.

"We got lucky and Sean didn't, and that's too bad," said his neighbour, actor Ed Harris, who returned to his estate Thursday to find it virtually unscathed.



Actress Ali McGraw attempts to locate mementos in the ashes of her house which was destroyed when wildfire whipped through Malibu in California (AFP photo)

home. Bruce Willis and Demi Moore's house escaped unscathed after it was ringed by fire, but their new black Porsche was coated with ash.

Flames raced by homes owned by Richard Gere, Mel Gibson, Dick Van Dyke and Amy

Madigan, but their houses suffered no major damage.

Actor Gary Bussey defied the fires and stayed put. His home survived intact.

Zsa Zsa Gabor offered her stables to house other celebrities' houses left homeless. "If

the animals need me, I'll be there," she said.

Malibu showed its gratitude to a 5,000-strong army of firefighters. Many were treated to free meals at three-star restaurants. A chiropractor to the stars offered back rubs without charge.



## Senna takes provisional pole for Australian GP

DELAIDE, Australia (R) — Brazilian Ayrton Senna produced his most stunning qualifying performance of the year today by breaking the lap record for the Adelaide Street circuit to take the provisional pole position for Sunday's Australian Grand Prix.

Senna, in a McLaren, followed up his emphatic victory in the Japanese Grand Prix 12 days earlier by dominating the opening qualifying session.

He clocked a best time of one minute and 13.371 seconds to take four-tenths of a second off the previous record set by Britain's Nigel Mansell in a Williams in 1992.

Senna's old rival, Frenchman Alain Prost in a Williams, was second fastest in 1:13.807 with a flying lap late in the session.

But it was a disappointment for Prost, taking part in his 39th and final Grand Prix before retirement. He had been quicker during the morning free session but was unable to find a clear lap to improve his time in the afternoon.

German Michael Schumacher was third fastest in a Benetton and Finland's Mika Hakkinen fourth after another impressive showing in the second McLaren.

Austrian Gerhard Berger as fifth in a Ferrari with Briton Damon Hill sixth in the second Williams, after an opening day in which he had to come to terms with the demands of the 3.780-km street circuit.

The session began slowly with very few cars venturing out onto the circuit because of rain from a preceding kart race. Berger, who crashed heavily in the morning without suffering any injuries, as among the quickest early on.

But once Senna went out for the first time midway through the hour, he took command. Under a blue sky and in dry conditions, the Brazilian was quickly down into the 1:14's and on top of the times, gradually trimming his best until he broke the track record.

Prost and Schumacher were unable to cut their times down to stay in contention until very late in the session.

Senna's opening day achievement has given him a good opportunity of ending Williams' record-equaling run of 15 successive pole positions in a single season. The British, however, still hope to extend their run to a record 16th pole and a total of 25 in succession stretching back to July 1982.

Senna was the last non-Williams driver to take the pole for a Grand Prix — at the Canadian race in Montreal. He has started from the pole 61 times in his career.

"It was a tremendous lap, a pretty special one. Had there been no traffic, I could have done better," he said.

"We also had a problem with the radio. I was wondering whether I should come in, because of low fuel... later I discovered that my radio button was stuck, so the pits could not talk back to me. The result though was that I could not concentrate in the usual way. So I could not improve my time."

Prost said: "I had some problems with the set-up of the car. No problems with the engine, but the chassis is not so good."

Schumacher was satisfied, "but I am surprised at the gaps between first and third. It is much bigger than I expected."

Hakkinen said: "I am a little disappointed. On my second set of tyres, I was struggling for balance... maybe I have been trying a bit too hard."

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Fellow Briton Derek Warwick was unable to run in his footwork Friday owing to illness. He had flu symptoms and a high temperature in the morning and was ordered to bed.

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As Formula One world champion Alain Prost wraps up his 13-year career in Adelaide Sunday, a new breed of speedy young drivers is set to bolt out from under the 37-year-old Frenchman's shadow.



Ayrton Senna of Brazil and his girlfriend, Adriana, watch a video during his farewell barbecue on the eve of the qualifying rounds for the Australian Grand Prix in Adelaide (AFP photo)

the first time midway through the hour, he took command. Under a blue sky and in dry conditions, the Brazilian was quickly down into the 1:14's and on top of the times, gradually trimming his best until he broke the track record.

Prost and Schumacher were unable to cut their times down to stay in contention until very late in the session.

Senna's opening day achievement has given him a good opportunity of ending Williams' record-equaling run of 15 successive pole positions

in a single season. The British, however, still hope to extend their run to a record 16th pole and a total of 25 in succession stretching back to July 1982.

Senna was the last non-Williams driver to take the pole for a Grand Prix — at the Canadian race in Montreal. He has started from the pole 61 times in his career.

"It was a tremendous lap, a pretty special one. Had there been no traffic, I could have done better," he said.

"We also had a problem with the radio. I was wondering whether I should come in, because of low fuel... later I discovered that my radio button was stuck, so the pits could not talk back to me. The result though was that I could not concentrate in the usual way. So I could not improve my time."

Prost said: "I had some problems with the set-up of the car. No problems with the engine, but the chassis is not so good."

Schumacher was satisfied, "but I am surprised at the gaps between first and third. It is much bigger than I expected."

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## Galatasaray eliminates Man. United

ISTANBUL (AP) — While Turkey celebrated its greatest soccer triumph Thursday, six fans of Manchester United remained locked in an Istanbul jail and the team's stars accused the Turkish police of brutality.

Thousands of Galatasaray supporters reveled in scenes of wild jubilation after their team's triumph Wednesday over the English giants in the Champions Cup, Europe's most prestigious soccer tournament.

Galatasaray held United to a goal-less tie at home after a 3-3 result in Manchester that put the Turks through to the third round on the strength of scoring more goals on the road.

Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller joined in the post-match celebrations.

"We were unable to join the European Community but did join the first eight in the European Cups," she said. "I am proud."

The celebrations were marred by at least two deaths.

In the Mediterranean town of Mersin, a woman was shot dead accidentally when someone fired in the air in jubilation. In Izmit, east of Istanbul, an unidentified man was crushed to death by a train as he ran over the tracks in wild delight.

In Ankara, a group demonstrated in front of the British embassy, shouting slogans in favour of Galatasaray and against Manchester United.

While the Turks celebrated, the English team and supporters returned home, either defeated or deported, and some saying they were beaten by the Turkish police.

140 United fans were

arrested and then sent home without even seeing the game following trouble at a hotel in Istanbul the morning before the game.

Six others stayed behind, remaining in Bayrampasa Prison to face charges of causing damage. The six, aged between 27 and 39, also face charges of drunkenness and disorderly conduct. It could be at least a month before their cases come to court.

There were no reports of crowd violence after the game but some of the United players said they were assaulted by police as they left the field.

French striker Eric Cantona, who was shown the red card by Swiss referee Kurt Roethlisberger for making an offensive comment as they walked off, said he was hit on the back of the head by a policeman.

Bryan Robson, former captain of England, was cut on the hand by a policeman's shield when he came to the Frenchman's defence. Robson required two stitches in his hand.

"It's a great scandal," Cantona was quoted as saying in British newspapers Thursday.

"A policeman got hold of his (Cantona's) arm and punched him in the back," Robson said. "I went to get a grip on the policeman's arm and another one hit me with his shield on the arm."

United manager Alex Ferguson said the incident was captured on film. He said the team would consider filing a formal protest with UEFA, but he acknowledged the incidents had nothing to do with the team's elimination.

Reports that Eric Cantona had accused top European referees of taking bribes were "a

complete fabrication," Ferguson said Friday.

Cantona was at the centre of a controversy after an article appeared in a French sports paper.

L'Equipe quoted Cantona as saying: "I am certain that referees have been bought in the European Cup and I ask myself whether Mr. Roethlisberger had not also been bought Wednesday night."

But Ferguson insisted that the French striker could not have made the comments in the aftermath of the goalless draw.

"As far as I am concerned, it is a complete fabrication. Eric could not have spoken to anyone after the game because he was in the dressing room all the time."

"No one was allowed in and he certainly did not speak to any journalists," the United manager said.

Some 40,000 noisy Galatasaray fans in the Ali Sami Yen Stadium celebrated the greatest night in the club's history as it eliminated one of the tournament favourites. Among the spectators was Mrs. Ciller.

After Swiss referee Roethlisberger had blown the final whistle, thousands of Turkish fans jumped up and down and poured onto the field to embrace Galatasaray players.

There were different scenes among the Manchester United players and Cantona was shown the red card after a comment to the referee as they left the field.

The Frenchman also was involved in an on-field flareup during the game when he clashed with a Galatasaray substitute who would not let him have the ball after it had rolled off the field. Some 10 players became involved in pushing and shoving each

other before the game resumed.

The Turks restricted the English titlist and runaway standees leader this season to just one chance in the entire game.

In the 36th minute, former England captain Robson sent a long pass through to Rytan Giggs and the teenage Welsh winger shot across the face of the goal.

Galatasaray should have been ahead by then but was twice denied by United's acrobatic Danish goalie, Peter Schmeichel.

In the 32nd minute, Schmeichel saved one-handed from Hakan. And, only seconds later, the tall Galatasaray striker had only the Danish goalie to beat from five metres but Schmeichel somehow blocked the shot with a reflex-action save.

United looked nothing like the team that currently leads the English standings by 11 points. Robson, Giggs and Cantona made frequent mistakes and never put pressure on the Galatasaray defence.

Ferguson had gambled by leaving Welsh striker Mark Hughes off the team and the lineup appeared lightweight in attack.

Now Galatasaray can look forward to reaching he round-robin third stage of the competition which generates big money in attendances as well as TV coverage.

That's exactly what United, which became the first English club to win the trophy in 1969, was aiming for.

In the last four seasons, United has won the Football Association Cup, the European Cup Winners Cup, the English League Cup and the English League.

For Ferguson, the Champions Cup should have been next in line.

## Holyfield hopes to be smarter in rematch with Bowe

LAS VEGAS (AP) — He's facing an opponent who is bigger, younger, hits harder and has already beaten him once. So what does Evander Holyfield bring to Saturday night's heavyweight title rematch against Riddick Bowe?

"The best fight of my life," Holyfield said. "All I have to do is use the skills I haven't used for a while."

The 31-year-old former champion figures to need all his skills and perhaps some more when he tries to regain two portions of the heavyweight title in the scheduled 12-round fight against Bowe.

Holyfield, who went toe-to-toe with Bowe in a valiant but ultimately misguided effort when he lost the undisputed heavyweight title last November, is banking on being a smarter fighter to win this time around.

"I fought with a lot of heart and courage last time, but it wasn't a thinking fight," Holyfield said. "It was the type of fight that excited fans, but it wasn't the smart fight that I should have fought."

That means Holyfield will try and stay outside and box Bowe this time, relying on movement and hand speed to try and negate Bowe's obvious physical advantages.

The strategy sounds fine, but to make it work Holyfield will have to put aside a tendency that has plagued him his entire career as it did against Bowe — his penchant to waste in and trade punches with an opponent once he gets hit.

"It's one of those things, that you're not going to knock me out and if you hurt me I'm still not going to run," Holyfield said. "It benefited him because I was right there in front of him."

Holyfield (29-1) will have some added bulk for the rematch, weighing in Thursday at 217 pounds (97.6 kilograms).

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## 3 breeders' Cup races to pay \$10 million

RCADIA, California (R) — Eighty-two horses, 18 of them from Europe, will run Saturday for \$10 million in purses spread across seven races on the biggest day in thoroughbred horse racing, the Breeders' Cup.

While five of last year's Breeders' Cup champions will be competing, not only for cup titles but also for possible Eclipse Awards for yearlong supremacy in their divisions and for consideration as Horse of the Year, the biggest star here is Dehere.

The brawny two-year-old with the crooked white blaze has set the racing world afire and is the prohibitive favourite in the Breeders' Cup juvenile race.

Dehere, already being de-

scribed as possibly the next Secretariat, the next Devil's Bag, the next Arazi, has been the favourite in all six of his races.

He was also fast. His Hopeful was the second fastest in history, right behind triple crown winner Affirmed's in 1977.

Still, could a two-year-old, even one as accomplished as Dehere, be named Horse of the Year? Secretariat set the precedent when he was named Horse of the Year as a two-year-old in 1972.

The cup races have produced 73 Eclipse winners in various categories since its inception in 1984.

Four defending Breeders' Cup champions will try to duplicate their performances

of 1992 — Thirty Sews in the sprint, Paseana in the distaff, Lure in the mile, and Fraise in the turf.

Last year's Breeders' Cup juvenile winner, Gilded Time, will run in this year's six-furlong sprint, despite not having raced since his Breeders' Cup win last year at Gulfstream Park.

The Horse of the Year will not be found in the sprint, but the six-furlong race probably will decide who is voted champion sprinter.

Five horses — Birdonthewire, Cardman, Meafara, Fly So Free, and Thirty Sews — come into the race with similar credentials. Should any of them win, he or she would likely get the Eclipse award.

No Horse of the Year is likely to come out of the juvenile fillies or the mile, either. Heavenly prize is a nice two-year-old filly, but she has raced only twice in her life.

Mile favourite Lure is devastating on the grass, but his weak point is distance. He can't win at longer than a mile and one-eighth, which cancels his "classic" status.

The Horse of the Year will probably come from one of the other three races.

If multiple grade I winner Bertrand, who set a record this year for the mile-and-one-quarter at Del Mar, wins the \$3 Million Classic, it would be hard to overlook him for the title.

The same holds true for American championship racing series winner Devil His Due, who could be voted Horse of the Year with a win in the classic.

Sky Beauty, winner of New York's Triple Crown for fillies, also has a shot at the title, but she will have to sufficiently beat a field that includes last year's distaff champion Paseana and Beldame winner Dispute.

Sky Beauty would have to run a very impressive race to be voted Horse of the Year. The fillies she has faced so far haven't been of the calibre of Paseana or Dispute.

The last turf horse to be voted Horse of the Year was the legendary John Henry in 1984. Kotashaan, who is favoured in the \$2 million turf, will have to be considered should he turn in a dazzling performance.

Kotashaan has won five of eight starts on the turf this year, with four of those victories coming on the Santa Anita Turf course.

Another grass horse that merits consideration isn't even running in the Breeders' Cup — Arlington Million winner Star Of Cozzene.

Star Of Cozzene, who was recently sold to Japanese interests, stands to benefit greatly if Kotashaan is upset in the turf. Star Of Cozzene will be making his next start in the Japan Cup.

## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF  
& TAWAN HIRSON  
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## ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠Q542 ♠A ♣KQ54 ♠A106  
Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What do you respond?  
A.—With at least 35 points and no more than 35 in the combined holding, we have no serious objection to a leap to six no trump. However, you have a ruffing value and partner might have one as well, so the hand could play better in a 4-4 fit if one exists. We would start matters off by bidding two clubs, requesting partner to show a four-card major.

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠A ♠J104 ♠A7652 ♠7 ♠K87  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♣ 1 ♠ 2 ♣ Pass

What do you bid now?  
A.—Partner's cue-bid agrees with us as trumps and is forcing. You have a poor trump suit and almost yell your values are in spades. You can make partner aware of both these features by rebidding two no trump.

Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠Q72 ♠Q5 ♠A83 ♠J10952  
In the bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♣ 1 ♠ 2 ♣ Pass

What action do you take?  
A.—Your side has the balance of twoover, but you really don't want to double the opponents at a low-level major-suit contract. To make it more difficult for them to find a fit, bid one no trump. That steals the one-level from them while giving you an accurate picture of the strength of your hand.

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠Q1094 ♠K983 ♠72 ♠A ♠J5  
The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
Pass Pass Pass 1 ♠  
Pass 1 ♣ ?

What action do you take?  
A.—The bidding has developed perfectly for you. You have the opportunity to tell partner that you have a near opening bid with at least four cards in each major. Double, for takeout of course, since partner has not yet bid.

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠A53 ♠95 ♠KJ96 ♠A ♠J107  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

What do you bid now?  
A.—With a balanced minimum opening bid and no support for partner's suit, the normal rebid is one no trump. We see no reason to depart from accepted principle.

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠A53 ♠95 ♠KJ96 ♠A ♠J107  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

What do you bid now?  
A.—The same problem as before, except that the major suits have been switched. You don't want to bid no trump without a stopper in the unbid major and to bid a new suit would tend to suggest a more unbalanced hand. Raise to two spades despite the fact you have only three-card support.

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Senegal envoy arrives with message

AMMAN (Petra) — An envoy of Senegalese President Abdou Diouf, arrived in Amman Friday evening. The envoy will deliver a message from President Diouf to His Majesty King Hussein.

## Likud 10 decide not to meet Arafat

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Ten members of Israel's right-wing opposition Likud have changed their mind about meeting Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat after threats of expulsion from the party. "I have gone back on my decision (to meet Arafat) after Wednesday's decision by the Likud disciplinary council to expel me from the party if I went," Elie Levy told Israel Radio Friday. Mr. Levy said Oct. 28 that he and nine other members of Likud's central committee were to go to Tunis to meet Mr. Arafat, "to be heard there and express our fears, but also to express our support for peace." The group of 10 were to have met Mr. Arafat by Sunday but Mr. Levy said they abandoned the plan. Likud opposes the autonomy deal signed by Israel and the PLO on Sept. 13, although Mr. Levy has said his group backed any agreement with the PLO.

## Military boycott talks on Haiti crisis

PORT-AU-PRINCE (AFP) — Talks on the political crisis in Haiti collapsed before they began Friday with the military's last-minute refusal to take part, U.N. mediator Dante Caputo said. Calling it a "regrettable" Mr. Caputo said the military's decision was communicated to him in a letter from army chief General Raoul Cedras. Mr. Caputo, who read a statement to reporters an hour after the talks were to have begun, said he would consult with U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali and Organisation of American States Secretary-General Josefa Baeza Soares. The United Nations had warned Thursday it would consider tougher sanctions against Haiti if the military failed to take part in the talks. The talks were aimed at salvaging the July 3 Governors Island accord, which established a step-by-step process for restoring democratic rule in Haiti, whose President Jean-Bertrand Aristide was ousted in a military coup Sept. 30, 1991. The process broke down when the time came for the chiefs of the army and the police to resign. Their refusal to step down blocked Mr. Aristide's scheduled return Oct. 30, and triggered a U.N. oil and arms embargo.

## 'Jihad leader wins Swiss asylum'

CAIRO (R) — Switzerland has granted political asylum to Egyptian militant leader Ayman al-Zawahiri, whose group shot dead president Anwar Sadat in 1981, the London-based Al Hayat Arabic newspaper said Friday. Quoting Egyptian sources, Al Hayat said in a front-page report that Mr. Zawahiri, a medical doctor, applied for asylum last month and was granted it last week. The report could not be independently confirmed. Mr. Zawahiri is accused of relaunching the "new Jihad" in Egypt under the name of the "Vanguards of Conquest" — a revival of the group that had shot dead Mr. Sadat at a military parade in 1981. The group was smashed after Mr. Sadat's murder. International news agencies and Al Hayat received a faxed invitation on Thursday for a news conference that would be held by Mr. Zawahiri on Wednesday at a hotel in Geneva.

## Rajavi to stay close to Iran border

BAGHDAD (R) — The Mujahadeen-e-Khalq, an Iranian opposition group, said Friday its leader had decided to stay near its military bases on Iraq's side of the border with Iran. In a statement issued in Baghdad and sent to Reuters, the rebel group said Massoud Rajavi would remain in Iraq overseeing preparations for a major onslaught on the "clerical regime" in Tehran. "He (Rajavi) knows of no place more suitable than being next to the Iranian frontier to prepare for the operation to overthrow the clerical regime," the statement said. The exiled Iranian group has its headquarters in Baghdad and scores of camps along the Iraq-Iran frontier. Its army, the National Liberation Army of Iran (NLA), has tanks, armoured personnel carriers and heavy artillery. On a recent military exercise held near the border with Iraq the NLA said it used helicopter gunships piloted by women.

## 4 girls suspended for headscarves

LYON, France (R) — Four Muslim girls were suspended from school on Friday for refusing to take off their headscarves, re-igniting a row over the rights of Islamic worshippers within France's secular state schools. The schoolgirls, aged 12 to 15 were barred for a week from attending classes in the eastern town of Nantua. They spent the morning in the school's library. Headmaster Jean Damestoy said the suspension would give the girls' families, of Moroccan and Turkish origin, time to reflect and threatened to expel the girls if they refused to bow to school rules. Mr. Damestoy said he had failed to convince the girls' families to instruct them to take off their scarves. Last month the school's teachers staged a strike to express concern over the headscarves, which they said as religious symbols undermined the institution's secular status.

## Libya denies hiring Thai chemical workers

TRIPOLI (AFP) — Libya on Friday denied it was producing chemical arms and had hired Thais to work in the industry in breach of a U.N. convention banning such weapons. "Libya has repeatedly affirmed in its official statements and before international bodies that it has no chemical weapons programme," the official JANA news agency said. JANA's political commentators said Libya "had no links with Thai workers who were hired by a company charged with creating a man-made river" bringing water from the south of the country to the coastal regions in the north. It was referring to some 25,000 Thais working in Libya, mostly in the construction industry. Several hundred are alleged to be involved in building chemical weapons facilities.

## Chinese airplane hijacked to Taiwan

TAIPEI (AP) — A man armed with two knives hijacked a Chinese airliner with 140 people on board Friday and asked for political asylum after forcing the plane to Taiwan, officials said. The Xiamen Airlines Boeing 737 was hijacked on a domestic flight from Guangzhou in southern China to the southern port city of Xiamen, airport officials said. It was the fifth Chinese civilian airplane hijacked to Taiwan since April. The plane and passengers were returned to China shortly after the aircraft landed but the hijacker, a 27-year-old driver for the city government in Tangshan, China, was detained for questioning and trial in Taiwan, officials said. Mr. Zhang Hai claimed he hijacked the plane so he could join his grandfather in Taiwan, they said.

## Heavy rains break Morocco drought

RABAT (R) — Rain lashed Morocco this week causing floods and cutting roads in some areas after two successive years of drought. The Public Works Ministry said in a statement on Friday that rainfall during the week was between 48 and 110 millimetres. The rains helped replenish reservoirs used for drinking water, power generation and irrigation, it added. Lack of rain cut Morocco's cereal harvest by 58 per cent in the last two seasons, compared to the previous five-year average. Morocco had to import about four million tonnes of grains over the two years. The drought also hit power supplies. The state electricity utility office National de l'electricite (ONE) was forced to make power cuts in Casablanca, Morocco's largest city and industrial centre, due a shortfall in hydro-power output. The power cuts affected industrial plants only, not domestic consumers.



VISIT TO LUXEMBOURG: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Friday left for Luxembourg on a two-day visit in response to an invitation extended by Duke of Luxembourg Grand Duke Jean. The Crown Prince was seen off at the airport by His Majesty King Hussein.

Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath, several princesses and princesses, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali and Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker. Prince Hassan is accompanied by Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath (Petra photo)

## Donors, PLO discuss financing for autonomy

PARIS (R) — International aid donors discussed with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel on Friday how to get aid flowing rapidly into the Gaza Strip and Jericho to buttress Palestinian self-rule due to begin in December.

Representatives of the European Community (EC), the United States, Japan, Canada and Saudi Arabia met the Israelis and the Palestinians at the Paris office of the World Bank for talks chaired by Norwegian Foreign Minister Johan Joergen Holst.

At issue was how to ensure that the \$2 billion pledged in aid over the next five years — \$600 million of it next year — really reaches the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza, while avoiding corruption, waste and duplication.

Israel's foreign ministry

director-general, Uri Savir, told Reuters it was crucial to get aid flowing immediately into the areas to prevent a vacuum arising when Israel withdraws its military administration.

The PLO took a step towards creating the conditions to receive economic aid by appointing a 14-member economic council for development and construction on Thursday, including Palestinians from inside and outside the territories.

But diplomats from some donor countries said they were worried that the council would be headed by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat personally with two of his closest aides in Tunis, Farouk Kaddoumi and Mahmoud Abbas, as vice-presidents.

"Once again, Arafat wants to keep his hands on the purse

strings and run everything in a highly centralised, personal way. That is not a recipe for efficiency," one diplomat said.

The chief PLO delegate to the Paris talks, Abu Ala (Ahmad Qurie), was named executive director of the council. East Jerusalem academic Sari Nusseibeh will be his deputy.

Diplomats said the cash-strapped PLO, deprived of most of its Arab funds since it sympathised with Iraq in the Gulf war, wanted to use some aid money for its own running costs, but donor nations wanted to restrict use to projects in the territories.

They said the EC delegation was particularly firm, stressing European taxpayers' money would not replace Gulf oil dollars in funding the PLO's Tunis bureaucracy.

## Israel to restore electricity to all Gazans

ATHENS (AFP) — Israel has promised to restore electricity to all Gaza Strip Palestinians, following a series of brief contacts held on the sidelines of a European Community (EC) energy conference here, officials from both delegations told AFP on Friday.

Israeli Energy Minister Moshe Shahal told Gaza Mayor Zakaria Makki that electricity would be restored to the 40 per cent of Palestinians whose supplies had been cut off three weeks previously for non-payment of debts, the officials said.

A high-ranking Israeli diplomat said that this was a technical not a political, issue.

Mr. Shahal was the only party to attend an EC-arranged meeting here on Thursday between Israelis, Palestinians and Jordanians to discuss energy, water and transport issues, an EC official told AFP.

During that meeting, he met with the EC commissioner in charge of energy, Abel Matutes, and his deputy, Panayotis Carvounis, to discuss possible EC funding for joint water and energy projects.

The Jordanian delegation excused itself from the meeting, citing the closeness of elections, and the Palestinian delegation, led by Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) scientific committee chairman Adnan Samara, showed up without a mandate to negotiate or a concrete project.

The meeting had been prepared following last month's EC decision to allocate 500 million ECUs (\$580 million) for projects linked to the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

"Unfortunately, we learned at the last minute that the meeting, which was to have produced a joint document, could not take place," a high-ranking E.C. official told AFP.

"We must have a dialogue about these types of projects," the official said. "This is only a postponement."

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat will visit EC headquarters in Brussels on Monday and Tuesday.

## PLO leader implicates Israel in Tunis spy case

DUBAI (R) — The Palestinian leader who signed the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) historic accord with Israel linked Israel Thursday to a man suspected of spying on the PLO's Tunis headquarters.

PLO Executive Committee member Mahmoud Abbas said suspected spy Adnan Yaseen planted two bugs in Mr. Abbas' office.

Interviewed on United Arab Emirates Television, Mr. Abbas first would not name Israel. But pressed by the interviewer he said:

"This spying case could be in our favour because the Israelis do not have trust in us and want to spy on us, and this is a point in our favour."

It was the first hint from a senior PLO official in Tunis that the Palestinian was suspected of spying for Israel.

Amman-based PLO officials said Mr. Yaseen had told interrogators he was recruited by Israel in Germany and France in 1990.

Mr. Abbas negotiated the PLO-Israel peace deal and later signed it for the PLO in Washington on Sept. 13.

Asked if the bugs helped Israel assess the PLO's thinking before it entered secret talks with the Jewish state, Mr. Abbas said: "The truth is that the bugs were placed only on

Oct. 10 and were detected a week later by Tunisian intelligence."

Mr. Yaseen apparently passed on information about the PLO in Tunis and names of people, including Palestinian leaders from the Israeli-occupied territories, who made public and secret visits to the PLO in Tunis in the past two years, Mr. Abbas added.

A PLO statement earlier in Tunis confirming the arrest made no mention of Israel, saying only that Mr. Yaseen had been arrested on suspicion of spying for a foreign enemy.

"Adnan Yaseen was arrested for collaboration with enemy machinery," the statement said.

Hakam Balawi, coordinator of the PLO's security services and ambassador in Tunis, said in the statement that Mr. Yaseen "was an ordinary administrative attaché at the PLO's office in Tunis."

"He had no work related to major issues whether political or security and has no connection at all with the Palestinian security apparatus," Mr. Balawi said.

"His behaviour aroused questions... and necessitated watching his movements which has resulted in his being arrested and taken to trial for the punishment he deserves," he added.

## Saudi Shiite dissidents make deal with government

DHAHRAN (AP) — Saudi Arabia's Shiite Muslim dissidents, for years seen as a possible vanguard for Iranian-inspired sabotage, are coming back into the fold.

The kingdom has pardoned its exiled Shiite opponents and they, in turn, have closed down their newsletters and ceased public criticism of the government, officials in the region said.

And in New York, a researcher for the human rights group Middle East Watch said Wednesday that the Saudi government released more than 30 Shiite detainees on July 25 — almost the total number of imprisoned Shiite dissidents.

In a previously unreported development, four top exiles — including the leader of the main Shiite opposition group — returned to the kingdom and met with King Fahd in early October, said the researcher, Aziz Abu Hamad.

The Shiite community in Saudi Arabia, which is concentrated in the oil-rich Eastern Province, has been estimated to number anywhere from 300,000 to 700,000. Saudi Arabia has a population of 17 million — 12 million citizens and five million foreign workers.

Animosity between Shiites and the majority Sunni Mus-

lims dates back centuries and was spurred in Saudi Arabia by persecution of the Shiites by the puritanical Wahhabite Sunni sect in the 18th century.

The Sunni-dominated government's suspicion of Shiites was heightened by the 1979 Iranian revolution that brought a Shiite fundamentalist government to power in Tehran.

The government's recent moves at reconciliation apparently are partially aimed at improving its image in the West, where this theocratic kingdom is often portrayed as being harsh on opponents.

A reconciliation with Shiite dissidents also is in line with the rapprochement between Tehran and Riyadh over the past three years.

Officials speaking on condition of anonymity confirmed that Interior Ministry representatives have met in London with members of the loose-knit Shiite reform movement.

The officials said the group stopped publishing its Arabic-language newsletter, called Arabian Peninsula, and halted its attacks on the Riyadh government. It also agreed to halt another newsletter, the English-language Arabian Monitor, published in Washington.

Those two were the only Saudi Shiite newsletters published in exile.

## U.S. troops to return to Mogadishu streets

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — U.S. troops hope a decision to send them back on patrol in the streets of Mogadishu will end confusion about their role in Somalia.

But a top U.N. relief official said the move, which is intended to stop militia gunmen hampering relief work, would have little impact if it were not accompanied by a policy of disarming militia gunmen.

"The troops are a bit confused by the ever-evolving policy," a senior U.S. military official told Reuters on Friday. "They came here to do a job, not to sit around. Hopefully, now, we'll be able to do it."

The Pentagon said on Thursday the arrival in Somalia of 30 M1A1 tanks and 42 Bradley fighting vehicles, or armoured cars, and a company of 155-mm Howitzers, enabled American units to resume clearing roadblocks to let relief agencies pass through.

Some 7,600 U.S. troops in Somalia — an additional 19,300, including 3,700 Marines are offshore aboard ships — have largely been confined to base following attacks by rival factions on U.N. patrols. More than 70 U.N. troops have been killed.

U.N. military officials said the Americans would return in force to the Mogadishu streets within days but no one appeared to have an exact date for the operation.

Relief workers, however, cautiously welcomed the U.S.

decision to redeploy. "There is a real need for the American troops to get back on the streets," said one top U.N. relief official, who declined to be named.

"Somalis are carrying guns openly on the streets again and technical vehicles — pick-ups mounted with guns — have been sighted in the city as before the December intervention by U.S. forces," he added. "But a return to the streets must be accompanied by a policy of disarmament. Without such a policy, I don't know what will be accomplished," he said.

About 3,600 U.S. sailors and Marines sailed away Thursday from Mogadishu in the continuing U.S. withdrawal and Somali clan leaders met with U.N. officials to discuss ways to improve security in the capital. About 7,500 U.S. troops remained, with an additional 8,650 offshore.

The famine in Somalia is over, the American Red Cross declared Thursday, but it said a long recovery lies ahead for a country that still has no national government.

"In contrast to scenes of violence in Mogadishu, elsewhere in Somalia people are focused on rebuilding their lives," the relief agency said in a brief summary of the international Red Cross's year-long effort in the country.

It said the current harvest is a good one and "Somalia is emerging from two years of vicious and debilitating civil war."

## Police raid Kurd centres; Bonn studies PKK ban

BONN (AFP) — Police raided Kurdish centres across Germany Friday after a wave of firebomb attacks on Turkish interests, while the government of Chancellor Helmut Kohl said it was seriously considering banning the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) held responsible for the onslaught.

An interior ministry spokesman said 46 people had been arrested following the attacks, and the Mainz prosecutor's office said eight people had been charged with breaching the peace in connection with the offensive.

One person died and eight people were wounded in the most serious attack Thursday on a Turkish-frequented restaurant in Wiesbaden.

The spokesman said nine other people, including a policeman, were also hurt in the closely-coordinated series of assaults mounted across Germany and Western Europe.

Several of those arrested were caught in the act of throwing Molotov cocktails, and one was arrested in hospital with burns, officials said.

The federal prosecutor's office in Karlsruhe, which is in charge of terrorism cases, said it had issued 14 search warrants, mostly in the state of North Rhine-Westphalia, where there were 21 attacks in 14 towns.

But the interior ministry and individual states had also launched actions, with searches reported in Bonn, Munich, Nuremberg, Ingolstadt and other towns.

Police smashed down the

door of the Kurd-Ha news agency in Dusseldorf and took away journalists' computers, printers, addresses and telephone numbers, as well as documents, a staff member told AFP.

The agency has been a source of information on the activities of the militant Kurdish independence movement.

The agency's director, Fatma Sincer, was detained for interrogation but later released.

The Kurd-Ha source said 100 to 150 homes and offices had been raided as part of the security drive in Hamburg, Bielefeld, Bremen, Frankfurt and Cologne. There are numerous Kurdish cultural centres in Germany, which has a Turkish population of 1.8 million, about one third of them Kurds.

There had also been raids in Sweden and Switzerland, the source said.

Government spokesman Dieter Vogel said Mr. Kohl considered those responsible for the Molotov cocktail attacks on Turkish diplomatic missions, banks, airline offices, travel agencies, restaurants and other establishments as "criminals."

Mr. Vogel said the government was "seriously considering" banning the PKK. "Abuse of hospitality" by Kurds in Germany could not be tolerated, he said.

Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said Thursday that it was now time to ban the PKK, while Interior Minister Manfred Kanther said he did not rule out such a move.

## COLUMN 800001

## Brazil actor says his wife killed soap star

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Brazilian actor Guilherme Padua, who confessed in court that he murdered his opera co-star Daniela Fajal, last December, now says his wife who did the act killing, Brazilian news reported. The brutal death of Mr. Perez last Dec. 28 shocked and fascinated Brazilians. On the prime-time opera "De Corpo e Alma (Of Body And Soul)", Mr. Perez played the sexy Yasm and De Padua her jealous boyfriend. Despite De Padua's claim in court in January that he acted alone, both he and his wife were jailed while awaiting trial. Police said they had strong evidence against his wife, Paula. The case is expected to go to trial next year. De Padua now says his wife Paula, who was 19 and pregnant at the time, had an argument with Ms. Perez, Giot Television reported Thursday. De Padua said that he knocked Mr. Perez out, and that Paul then grabbed a pair of scissors and stabbed the 22-year-old beauty. When asked by a reporter whether Paula had killed Perez by herself, De Padua replied: "How could she be her by herself? We are both responsible for the crime."

## Bad moods linked to smoking and drinking

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans susceptible to bad moods are more likely to be smokers, and the moodier men also tended to be heavy drinkers, government health researchers reported. "These findings suggest that emotional well-being may play a role in cigarette smoking and heavy drinking," said a study by Charlotte A. Schoenborn and John H. M. of the National Centre for Health Statistics. Some 43,782 adults were asked in an extensive 1991 health survey if they had felt negative moods such as depression, boredom, anxiety or loneliness in the previous two weeks. Overall, the survey indicated that 22.5 million women and 17 million men often experienced at least one negative mood during the two weeks before being interviewed. More than 8 million had frequent bouts of three or more of the bad feelings. Lonely adults were 60 per cent more likely to smoke; the depressed were 4 to 50 per cent more likely to light up. The moodier men were three times as likely to be heavy drinkers, the centre said. But the researchers found no relationship between negative moods and heavy drinking for women. They defined heavy drinking as three or more drinks a day for men and two or more for women. Because of the large size of the survey, its standard margin of error was just one to two percentage points.

## Australian, Indian win Commonwealth Writers Prizes

SINGAPORE (AP) — Novelists from Australia and India were the overall winners in this year's Commonwealth Writers Prize. Arthur Miller, 56, won the best book award, received £10,000 (\$14,700) for "The Ancestor Game." Ms. Gita Hariharan, 38, who wrote "The Thousand Faces of Night" examined traditional relationships in male-dominated Hindu society, was awarded £3,000 (\$4,412) for best first book. Their novels were chosen from eight shortlists for the two prizes. The nine-member panel of judges was headed by Singapore Ambassador At-Large Tommy Koh.

## Youth gets jail term for breaking into data bases

NEW YORK (R) — A 21-year-old man was sentenced to one year in prison for his role in a group that broke into some of the most sensitive computer files used by telephone companies and credit reporting services. Mark E. Abene, 21, of Elmhurst, New York, who pleaded guilty in July to tampering with Southwest Bell's computer. He was the last of five young men indicted in the huge 1991 computer break-in scheme to admit committing the crimes.